



IN THE INDEPENDENT TOMORROW

Confessions of a jumble junkie – the cheap frills of second-hand fashion

MELANIE RICKEY ON THE JOYS OF RUMMAGING PLUS LONDON MEN'S FASHION WEEK

THE BEST WRITING, WEEK IN, WEEK OUT: DEBORAH ROSS, HOWARD JACOBSON, HAMISH MCRAE, MARK STEEL, ROBERT FISK, TERENCE BLACKER, SUSANNAH FRANKEL, JOHN WALSH, RICHARD WILLIAMS, DAVID AARONOVITCH, DEBORAH ORR, THOMAS SUTCLIFFE, MILES KINGTON, SUE ARNOLD, ANDREAS WHITTEM SMITH

MONEY:
ETHICAL
INVESTMENTS
PLUS
SECRETARIAL

New curb to stop bogus marriage

BY PAUL WAUGH
Political Correspondent

removed benefits from those who claimed asylum after they had settled in the UK.

Together with a court case that insisted that all councils had a duty to protect refugees from destitution, that law meant town halls had to spend millions caring for the rising number of asylum seekers. Today's bill will move the burden from councils to the Home Office and allow ministers to send refugees around the country to ensure that no one area suffers disproportionately.

Contrary to some reports, Home Office sources confirmed that there will be no amnesty for the current backlog of 50,000 unresolved asylum cases.

Instead, the claim processing system will be speeded up to meet the Government's commitment to a "fairer and faster" asylum system. All new cases will be set a target of two months for an initial decision and a further four months for any appeal, allowing six months in total for the whole process.

To aid the process, the immigration appeals panel will be given the status of a court of record to prevent further judicial reviews of their decisions.

Ferry, train and haulage companies will be liable to a £2,000 fine if they are found to have knowingly imported an illegal immigrant. However, truck drivers will be allowed to appeal successfully against the fine if they can prove that they have complied with a new code of conduct to carry out checks on their vehicles.

The move, six weeks before a crunch summit on EU funding, coincided with powerful political attacks on the rebate.

According to papers circulated by the presidency ahead of yesterday's meeting, this

THE GOVERNMENT will announce the biggest ever clampdown on bogus marriages today when it unveils its long-awaited Immigration and Asylum Bill.

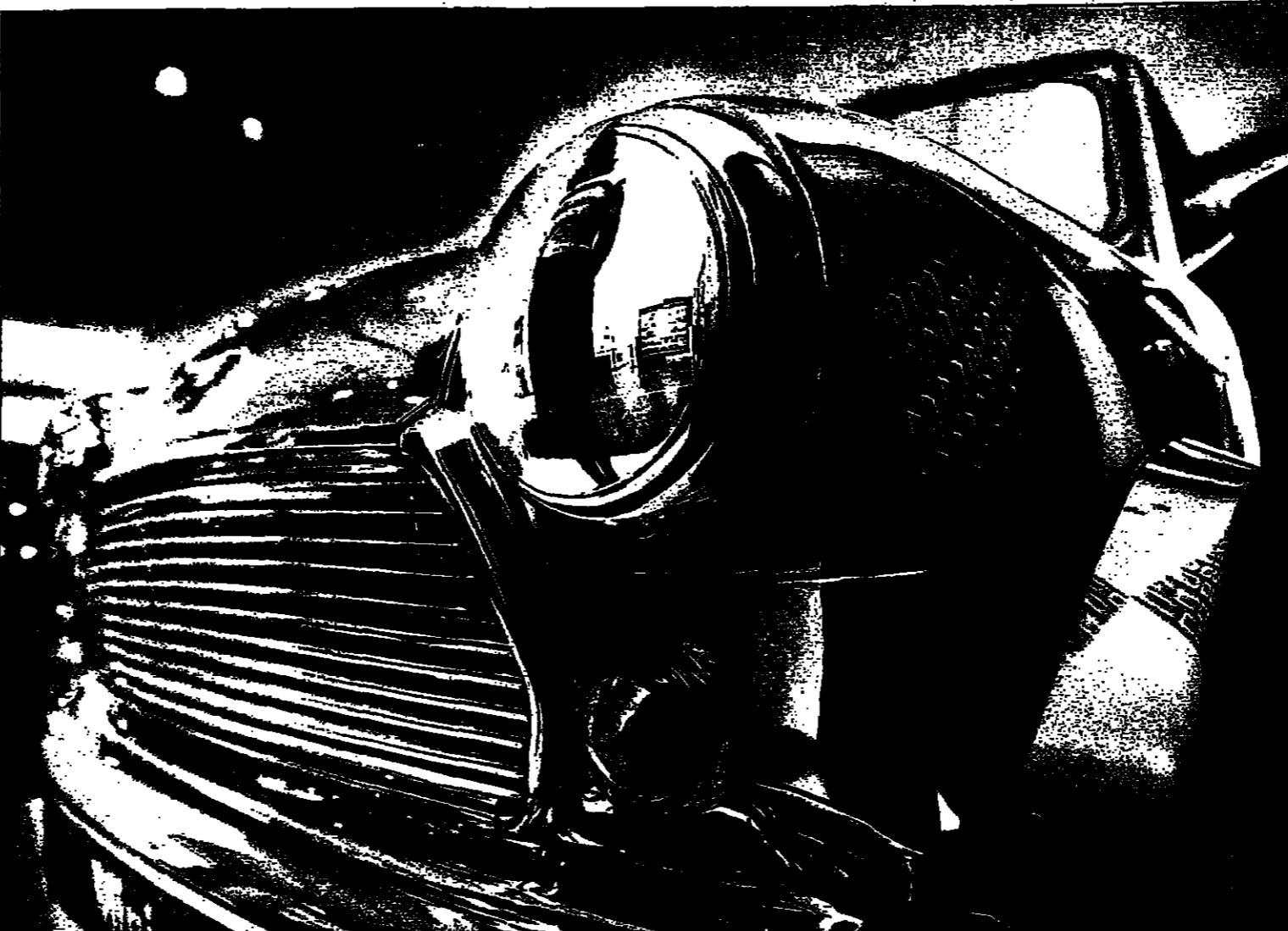
The legislation will give registrars the power to insist that all prospective couples provide nationality documents before allowing a wedding to go ahead. *The Independent* has learned.

Ministers regard the measure as a tough new way to stamp out lucrative bogus marriage rackets, run by gangs across the UK, that give desperate illegal immigrants a chance to remain in this country. The move aims to end for good the current situation where thousands of people who have overstayed their visa and disappeared from public records have suddenly reappeared through a fraudulent marriage at a register office.

Previously the only bar to marriage was bigamy.

The clause to give registrars the new power to insist on "bona fides" is one of the few new measures in the 130-clause bill to be published today in the House of Commons. The bill will also stop all DSS cash benefits from asylum seekers, including those who follow the law and declare their status at the port of entry. Instead, refugees will be allowed payments in kind, such as toiletries and food parcels, although they may be awarded "pocket money" if Home Office officials deem it appropriate.

The legislation aims to repair the chaos caused by the last Tory government's Immigration and Asylum Act, which



A customised chrome Mini owned by David Bowie, the pop star, is on display at a London exhibition to celebrate 40 years of the Mini. Also on display are Minis owned by Kate Moss, the model, and Paul Smith the fashion designer

Bidders circle around BMW

BY MICHAEL HARRISON
Business Editor

SHARES in BMW soared by nearly 10 per cent yesterday as speculation grew that the German car firm might be the subject of a £20bn takeover bid.

Among the companies rumoured to be interested in bidding for BMW are General Motors, Ford, Toyota and Fiat.

The surge in the shares followed last Friday's removal of the BMW chairman, Bernd Pischetsrieder, because of his failure to stem mounting losses at its Rover subsidiary.

Mr Pischetsrieder's departure has placed a question mark over the Longbridge car plant in Birmingham which could close unless it is chosen as the site for a new medium-sized car to replace the Rover 200/400 series.

Tony Blair raised the future of Longbridge with the German Chancellor, Gerhard Schröder, at yesterday's funeral of King Hussein of Jordan.

Stephen Byers, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, visited the Longbridge plant and met management and union officials. He later acknowledged the uncertainty over the future and said: "The Government is in close contact with BMW and we shall continue to do all we can to represent the interests of Rover and, in particular, Longbridge."

Analysts believe the new BMW chairman, Professor Joachim Milberg, will want to move quickly to decide strategy over Rover. The board meets today and is thought to have set itself a two-week deadline to reach decisions.

BMW is controlled by the Quandt family, who own 46 per cent of the shares and have rejected previous approaches.

"BMW is a very attractive proposition," said John Lawson, motor industry analyst with the investment bank Salomon Smith Barney. "But the Quandts have made it professionally impossible to read their intentions. There's no doubt, however, that anybody knocking on their door needs to be seriously cash rich."

Analysts believe that the boardroom upheaval at BMW may have tested the patience of the Quandt family and left the company more vulnerable to a takeover bid. But Otto Wiesheu, the Bavarian economics minister, dismissed the speculation as being "for the birds".

Business Outlook, page 15
Hamish McRae, Review, page 5

Europe's ministers pose threat to Britain's £2bn budget rebate

BY STEPHEN CASTLE
in Brussels

the German presidency of the EU will consider a "generalised" correction system to address the problems of four other big net contributors to the EU: Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden and Austria.

The move, six weeks before a crunch summit on EU funding, coincided with powerful political attacks on the rebate.

According to papers circulated by the presidency ahead of yesterday's meeting, this

would form a "safety net" to ensure that no nation faced unrealistic demands. Omnipotently for Britain, the paper added: "The existing UK rebate could be incorporated into a general correction mechanism".

That raises the prospect of a fundamental overhaul of the British budget rebate, a unique mechanism aimed at correcting a continuing imbalance between what the UK pays into the EU and what it gets back.

Speaking after yesterday's meeting, Oskar Lafontaine, Germany's Finance Minister, underlined the high degree of hostility to the rebate and highlighted calls for Britain to surrender at least in part when the EU enlarges to the east. Most other EU nations argue that the rebate will protect Britain from shouldering its share of the burden, and any new mechanism would almost certainly reduce the UK's refund.

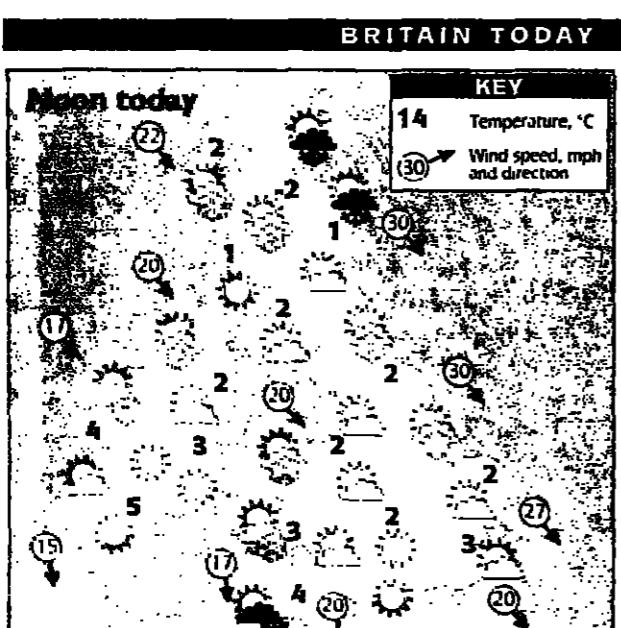
Mr Lafontaine said: "A majority of member-states are in favour of an amendment [to the UK rebate], in particular, that no member-state should be absolved from the need to contribute to enlargement."

He added that there is sufficient support for a general corrective mechanism for it to "remain on the negotiating table".

The German agenda document for yesterday's meeting also outlined the extent to which Britain is outnumbered, with "a very large majority of member-states taking the view that the UK rebate in its present form is no longer justified".

It also called for discussion of the extent to which "a phasing-out of the UK rebate could fit in a timetable for other efforts".

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LIGHTING UP		
Belfast	5.18pm	to 7.57am
Birmingham	5.08pm	to 7.34am
Bristol	5.14pm	to 7.34am
Cardiff	5.07pm	to 7.25am
London	5.04pm	to 7.35am
Manchester	5.07pm	to 7.39am
Newcastle	4.59pm	to 7.40am

For 24 hrs to 2pm Monday

HIGH TIDES		
AM	HT	PM
Southampton	12.02 10.0	12.27 9.8
Portsmouth	11.16 9.5	11.59 4.9
Dover	4.33 5.4	5.09 5.1
Dun Laoghaire	5.42 3.3	6.26 3.4
Greenwich	10.42 2.5	11.36 4.1
Harwich	5.56 2.3	5.54 3.0
Harwich	5.59 2.3	5.35 3.1
Holyhead	4.03 4.4	4.29 5.4
Lyme Regis	5.33 4.4	5.03 4.6
Liverpool	4.43 5.2	5.12 7.2
Mill (Albert) DK	12.00 7.0	12.00 7.0
Plymouth	11.46 2.3	11.36 5.1
Poole	5.14 3.8	5.44 3.6
Portsmouth	10.32 3.4	2.02 3.4
Porthcawl	10.46 2.4	10.37 4.5
Weymouth	5.04 2.8	5.35 2.8

Height measured in metres

AIR PRESSURE		
London	1010.0	50.50
S E England	1012.2	50.50
Wales	1010.0	50.50
N England	1010.0	50.50
Scotland	1010.0	50.50
N Ireland	1010.0	50.50

Today's readings

SUN & MOON		
Sun rises	07.27	
Sun sets	17.24	
Moon rises	17.40	
Moon sets	11.23	
New moon Feb 16th.		

24 hours to Spain (GMT) Sunday: Information by PA Weather Centre

WEATHERLINE		
General situation: England and Wales will be cold and wet, but it will be very cold in the north and east. Northern Ireland will also be cold with some rain and drizzle. Most of the showers across Northern Counties. The south of England will have better winter sunshine but also the odd snow shower.		
UK England, London: Very cold but sunny with only a slight risk of a wintry shower. A north-westerly wind. Max temp 3-4°C (37-39°F).		
UK England, NW England, Cumbria, Scotland: Some sunny spells with a mix of sunny spells and short showers. The showers are most likely to be towards the coast. A fresh north-westerly wind. Max temp 3-4°C (37-39°F).		
UK England, mid-Wales, Wales, Lake District, Isle of Man: It will be breezy with some wintry showers. Most of the showers will be along the coast and north-facing hills. A fresh north-westerly wind. Max temp 2-3°C (34-37°F).		
UK Scotland, SE Scotland, Edinburgh, Glasgow: Bitterly cold but sunny with snow showers. A fresh north-westerly wind. Max temp 1-2°C (34-37°F).		
UK Scotland, Northern Ireland, W Islets: It will be blustery and bitterly cold with frequent snow showers. A fresh to strong north-westerly wind. Max temp 1-2°C (34-37°F).		
UK Ireland: Some sunshine but snow showers, mainly towards the north coast. A fresh north-westerly wind. Max temp 1-3°C (34-37°F).		

OUTLOOK		
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MONEY:
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BY SALLY MILFRANKEL,
WITH CLARE SMITH

Bidders circle around BMW

By MICHAEL BALDWIN

BY KATHY MARKS AND
CLARE GARNER

IRIS MURDOCH, the novelist and philosopher whose descent into Alzheimer's was movingly charted in a book by her husband, John Bayley, has died aged 79.

Murdoch will be mourned as one of the finest and most prolific writers of her generation. She produced 26 novels, including *The Bell*, *A Severed Head* and the 1978 Booker Prize-winner *The Sea, The Sea*, as well as numerous works of philosophy.

Friends said she died at 4pm yesterday at Vale House, in Oxford, a hospice where she had spent the past three weeks. The cause of death was thought to be pneumonia. Mr Bayley, her husband of 43 years, was at her bedside.

Murdoch, who always said that she regarded herself as a "second-league" writer, was appointed Dame of the British Empire in 1987 for services to literature. She taught philosophy at St Anne's College, Oxford, and was nominated many times for the Nobel Prize for Literature.

She and Mr Bayley, a retired English literature professor at Oxford, had what each described as a perfect marriage. In his poignant and tender book, *Iris: A Memoir*, published in November, he wrote that the disease had brought them closer together.

"She is not sailing into the dark," he wrote. "The voyage is over and, under the dark escort of Alzheimer's, she has arrived somewhere. So have I."

Tribute was paid last night by Paul Levy, a writer and long-time friend of the couple. He said that her novels were "Murdochian", as distinctive as the works of Proust or Kafka.

"It was her ability to create an entire world or universe that was recognisable as something special, as hers," he said. "You know that things happen in quite strange and interesting ways in a Murdoch world."

Bayley stunned the literary milieu when he revealed two years ago that not only was she suffering from Alzheimer's, but had already deteriorated so badly that she was incapable of simple acts of memory and communication.

"The power of concentration has gone, along with the ability to form coherent sentences and to remember where she is or has been," he wrote in *The New Yorker* magazine last July.

"She does not know she has written 26 remarkable novels as well as her books on philosophy,



Iris Murdoch and her husband John Bayley. He said that she was the most genuinely modest person he had ever met

Richard Judges/Rez Features

received honorary doctorates from major universities and become a Dame of the British Empire."

Murdoch was born in Dublin in July 1919, and was educated at Badminton School in Bristol before going on to Somerville College, Oxford, where she gained a first-class degree in classics.

She briefly joined the Communist Party and got a job at the Treasury during the war. When the war ended, she worked for the United Nations in displaced-persons' camps in Austria and Belgium.

It was during this period that she became involved with Raymond Queneau, the mathematician and novelist, and also fell under the spell of Jean-Paul Sartre, the leading

prophet of existentialism. Murdoch's first novel, *Under The Net*, was published in 1954. She won the Whitbread Prize in 1974 for *The Sacred and Profane Love Machine*. Her other novels include *The Nice And The Good*, *The Sandcastle* and *The Book* and *The Brotherhood*.

She and Bayley met at Oxford in 1954, when he was a gaunt 26-year-old and she a don of 34, devastatingly attractive by many accounts, with a string of love affairs behind her. A contemporary recalled her as "pretty and buxom, with blonde hair and dirndl skirts".

Their marriage was said by friends to be "one of the great love stories". Marital bliss was accompanied by domestic disarray; their Oxford home was

chaotic, with a kitchen that was continually cluttered with belongings.

Some criticised Murdoch's novels as confined to the small milieu of the Hampstead intelligentsia; others said her books were too long and undisciplined. Her last, *Jackson's Dilemma*, published in 1995, received mixed reviews.

She herself believed that the novel should be a "huge, great place" that could express everything, in the manner of Shakespeare.

Murdoch first realised that something was amiss in 1995, but she initially thought that she was just suffering from a severe case of writer's block.

Jonathan Miller, president of the Alzheimer's Disease Society, said last night: "It is a

cruel and hideous disorder; and one can only admire the people who care for the person who suffers. John Bayley obviously cared for her with enormous courage and self-sacrifice."

Alison Denham, a philosophy fellow at St Anne's, said Murdoch had attended a college dinner only last term.

"John was marvellous," she said. "He would be very discreetly bringing her along. He would see that she was looked after without being ever present."

The college, which is arranging a memorial service, will be greatly missed."

said in a statement last night: "Dame Iris was not only one of the most valued members of St Anne's College, but of Oxford University. Her creative talents, her intelligence and her kindness distinguished her in a most distinguished arena. She will be greatly missed."

TRIBUTE TO A WIFE

John Bayley on Murdoch:

"Iris is without question the most genuinely modest person I have ever met, or if it comes to that, could ever imagine. Modesty is apt to be something acted, by each individual in his or her own way, part of the armoury with which people half-consciously build up the persona they wish others to become aware of, and with which they intend to confront the world. Iris has no pride in being modest: I don't think she even knows she is."

On the Impact of Alzheimer's on their marriage:

"1 December 1997 (I think, a Sunday anyway) [sic:] Life is no longer bringing the pair of us 'closer and closer apart', in the poet's tenderly ambiguous words. Every day we move closer and closer together. We could not do otherwise. There is a certain comic irony - happily not darkly comic - that after more than 40 years of taking marriage for granted, marriage has decided it is tired of this, and is taking a hand in the game. Purposefully persistently, involuntarily, our marriage is now getting somewhere. It is giving us no choice: and I am glad of that. Every day we are physically closer; and Iris's little 'mouse cry', as I think of it, signifying loneliness in the next room, the wish to be back beside me, seems less and less forlorn, more simple, more natural. She is not sailing into the dark: the voyage is over, and under the dark escort of Alzheimer's she has arrived somewhere. So have I."

From *Iris: A memoir of Iris Murdoch*, by John Bayley (Duckworth, £16.95)

Alarming idiosyncrasy, she freed a generation of writers



Iris Murdoch at the start of her career

FROM THE beginning of her career Iris Murdoch seemed to enlarge the possibilities in front of the English novel. She was a writer of wonderful, and sometimes rather alarming idiosyncrasy: from her first novels, she explored a parish which was uniquely and unmistakably hers. But, somehow, by pursuing her desire only to be herself, she made it possible for generations of novelists after her to be more themselves.

Hers was a liberating and a generous imagination, an unacknowledged legislator not just of the English novel, but of the freedoms of the English mind.

Sometimes, of course, the idiosyncrasy seemed uppermost to her contemporaries. The huge splash made by her remarkably funny and cynical first novel, *Under The Net*, proved something of a red herring, and she was never afterwards such a natural comedian.

What she quickly established, instead, was a taste for intricate melodrama, married to scenes of serious philosophical debate, and a weakness for extravagant symbolism. The results, in early novels such as *The Bell*, are often thrilling: serious fantasies entirely without the besetting English sin of embarrassment. They never apologise, they never explain, and they are wonderful. They are purple, headlong, passionately involved and quite unlike anything that had been seen before.

Something so new and so shameless could not, of course, expect to have an easy ride, and with their huge casts and deliberately fanciful settings, Murdoch's novels found many detractors. Ivy Compton-Burnett, who might have been expected to be interested in another arch-individualist, was probably typical: her standard response on being asked if one ought to read a new Murdoch was: "I don't think you need trouble." Something so outrageously enjoyable could hardly be serious, and a great game of knocking Murdoch began to take place.

But the whole climate had changed. The thrilling spirit of fantasy and epic which began to come into the English novel in the early Sixties was, surely, sparked off by her determined individuality. Although few novelists imitated her di-

rectly, there are hardly any ambitious writers left unmarked by the encounter.

AS BYATT, Doris Lessing, John Fowles, Angela Carter, even Alastair Gray's ingloriously influential *Lorrie*, the best writers of the time seemed to be liberated by the possibilities she had revealed, made free to grow bigger than their teacher.

She was at her best, I think, in the novels of the late Sixties and early Seventies, which refute that ignorant argument which holds that the English novel was then parochial and unambitious. The symbolism relaxes - the slightly clunking appearances of the sword in *A Severed Head* is replaced by the unforgettable device of the swimming pool in *A Fairly Honourable Defeat*. The readability of a novel like *A Word Child* or *The Black Prince* is almost appallingly powerful.

The novels manage to be playful, fistic, symmetrical, and retain their responsibility to the outside world, so that she can discuss the ethical problems of the Vietnam draft-dodgers and orchestrate and pattern a party scene until it resembles the masque in *The Tempest*. The besetting sin of whimsy is not entirely absent - the space ship at the end of the otherwise very fine *The Nice and The Good* is tough to deal with - but for half a dozen novels, here is an exuberant, carnival intelligence doing exactly what she chooses.

And that, surely, ought to be

enough. It is undeniable that things started to go wrong from the late Seventies onwards. *The Sea, The Sea*, which won the Booker Prize, is very far from being her best book, and after that a slow process of withdrawal began to take place.

Of course, she could still rise to the grand old manner from time to time, as the under-rated *Nuns and Soldiers* or *The Philosopher's Pupil* quickly shows. But the whimsy starts to become overpowering.

We know now, thanks to her husband, the intimate details of her last decline - the uncommissioned confessions of a writer who had never chosen to write about herself before.

And it might be tempting, in those last novels, to look for something of that mental decline. But it is not there, or perhaps only in the abbreviations and effortful elaborations of her last, *Jackson's Dilemma*.

Until then, there is only a powerful mind, doing exactly what it wants to do, pursuing an increasingly arid and wilful path.

She never lost that blissful readability, but, by the Eighties, she had done what she could. And it will do; it emphatically will do. She is too strange, too idiosyncratic a writer to go on being read in total, but, at her best, she made you realise what the novel could do, and her voice is everywhere. Si monumentum requiri, circumspice.

PHILIP HENSHER

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Three die in meningitis outbreak

BY JEREMY LAURANCE
Health Editor

THE WORST outbreak of meningitis for a year has struck three schools in south Wales. Eleven people have been stricken with the disease, three of whom have died, triggering a public health emergency.

Medical staff were yesterday treating 1,500 children in Pontypridd, Mid Glamorgan, with antibiotics in an attempt to halt the spread of the disease which is running at record levels nationwide. There were 334 cases of meningitis across the country in the first two weeks of 1999, the highest for any two-week period in the past 50 years.

Gareth Gould, 15, who had been studying for his GCSEs at Coedlan Comprehensive School in Pontypridd died last week hours after complaining of a mild headache. Yesterday, a 50-year-old teacher and mother of two, Lynne James, from the Cardinal Newman RC Comprehensive school, died after being admitted to hospital on Sunday night.

The 11 people who have contracted the disease in the area since the beginning of February include seven children from three schools. A 60-year-old woman died last week.

The outbreak is the worst since that in Ironville, south Derbyshire in early 1998. Meningitis is a cyclical disease with peaks every 10 to 15 years and nationally the number of cases has risen sharply in the last three years. The number of cases is now running at about 2,600 a year - twice the level in 1995.

Doctors from Bro Taf health authority in Cardiff said they were dealing with a new ag-



Gareth Gould, 15, who died hours after complaining of a headache. Right: The Cardinal Newman school, where meningitis victim Lynne James, 50, taught Huw Evans



gressive sub-type of the virulent C strain of meningitis. One in 10 of the population carries the bacteria that cause meningitis in the back of their throat although only a few are vulnerable to developing the disease. Giving antibiotics kills

the bacteria and prevents further spread. In addition, some children were being offered vaccination.

The mother of Gareth Gould described yesterday the chilling speed with which the disease struck her son, who died last

week. He had complained of a mild headache in the morning but insisted she went to work leaving him at home. "When I came back Gareth was a bit hot but I saw two little marks on his arm and I knew that could be a sign. I called out the doctor

and he got him in hospital straight away.

"Gareth was still able to talk to us and at one point he wanted to get out of bed for a can of Coke. The doctors sedated him so he was out of pain and they put him on a ventilator. He

closed his eyes and gave us a double thumbs-up telling us it would be OK. But within 30 minutes all his organs had shut down. He died and there was no real warning that anything was seriously wrong."

Phil Raybould, head of Co-

edlan Comprehensive School where Gareth was a pupil, yesterday praised staff and pupils for their co-operation. He said:

"We are extremely concerned by this outbreak and are asking parents to be extra vigilant and alert to the symptoms."

"We are carrying out tests and believe it could be a strain we have not come across previously. Antibiotics and vaccination will be just as effective on the new strain. It is treatable but diagnosis must be made quickly and treatment given promptly."

He said one other pupil remained in a critical condition with meningitis while four others were stable or recovering.

Dr Meirion Evans, consultant in communicable diseases at Bro Taf health authority, said:

"We are extremely concerned by this outbreak and are asking parents to be extra vigilant and alert to the symptoms."

"We are carrying out tests and believe it could be a strain we have not come across previously. Antibiotics and vaccination will be just as effective on the new strain. It is treatable but diagnosis must be made quickly and treatment given promptly."

The scale of the rise in meningitis cases in recent years has taken the experts by surprise. A spokeswoman for the Meningitis Research Foundation said: "The totals for 1997 and 1998 are the highest for 50 years. We hope it is plateauing and will go down but at the moment there is no sign of it. The figures are very high and we are concerned to raise awareness to ensure prompt diagnosis and early treatment."

She said the C2a strain identified in Mid Glamorgan had been around for a few years although it was among the newer ones. About 40 per cent of cases are caused by the C strain with the remainder caused by the B strain. There are seven or eight major types of each strain.

The Meningitis Research Foundation is operating a free 24-hour helpline: 0808 800 3344.

Dublin calls for return of Mitchell the peacemaker

BY DAVID MCKITTRICK
Ireland Correspondent

THE IRISH government yesterday suggested the return to Belfast of the former US Senator George Mitchell, who successfully chaired the talks which led to last year's Good Friday Agreement, in an attempt to resolve the arms decommissioning issue.

Although the proposal met with a lukewarm response, the floating of the idea seen as a sign that Britain and Ireland are exploring all options in an effort to crack the problem by their target date of 10 March.

The issue was raised by Mary Harney, the Irish Deputy Prime Minister, who said that since Mr Mitchell could be trusted by everybody, there might well be a role for him now.

another room somewhere."

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Mo Mowlam, said she was reticent about re-inviting Mr Mitchell, adding: "At the end of the day it's up to the party leaders."

Ms Mowlam also took heart from a Belfast Telegraph opinion poll which suggested widespread support for weapons decommissioning, even among Sinn Fein supporters.

The poll, of 1,100 people, said 84 per cent of those questioned wanted guns handed over immediately. More intriguingly the poll also reported that 58 per cent of Sinn Fein supporters said they wanted to see the IRA and loyalist paramilitaries hand over weapons.

These figures were immediately attacked by Mitchel McLaughlin, of Sinn Fein, who said they represented a distortion. He added: "It has no credibility at all. Any political scientist could tell you that."

The Sinn Fein figure was, however, so high and so unexpected that the poll will now be closely analysed by all sides.

Ms Mowlam has launched a new round of talks with Belfast parties to discuss decommissioning and other issues. Many of Northern Ireland's political leaders have meanwhile flown to Brussels to urge the EU to keep payments to the province at a high level.

David McKittrick, Review, page 4

£250,000 for ecstasy victim brain-damaged by hospital

BY LINUS GREGORIADIS

A BRAIN-DAMAGED woman who lost the ability to speak, read and write after taking ecstasy at a nightclub yesterday won £250,000 agreed damages in the High Court from the hospital that treated her.

In what is believed to be the first compensation pay-out of its kind, Lorraine Leighton, now aged 25, had sued North Middlesex Hospital NHS Trust over the care she received after she was admitted in January 1995.

Ms Leighton sat next to her parents in court as her counsel, Duncan Pratt, said her case was "a question of both tragedy and triumph".

Ms Leighton had been left with a catalogue of neurologi-

cal disabilities which she and her family had fought hard to overcome. Mr Pratt said:

The former beautician, who is not expected to work again, had had to learn how to write, swallow, feed herself and communicate.

Ms Leighton had taken two half tablets of ecstasy before she collapsed and was admitted, semi-conscious, to North Middlesex Hospital in north London, the court was told.

Mr Pratt claimed that Miss Leighton's problems were "eminently correctable" when she arrived in hospital and that there was little or no active investigation or management of

her condition during her first 48 hours there. During that time she suffered irreversible brain damage, the court was told. It was also claimed that the administration of fluids exacerbated her problems.

The trust, which denied liability, admitted breach of duty in that some mandatory investigations were not performed by the medical staff who admitted Ms Leighton. It also admitted that it was not appropriate to continue with fluids beyond a certain point.

The trust said that if the case had not been settled, it would have argued that the brain swelling suffered by Ms Leighton was a direct toxic effect of taking ecstasy, so any

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IN BRIEF

Mencap says jail terms 'too short'

SENTENCES ON a care homes owner and worker guilty of ill-treating residents with learning difficulties were criticised as too lenient yesterday by the disability charity Mencap. Donald Lee, 49, and David Poole, 40, were given six and three months jail terms, half to be suspended.

Councillor beat neighbour

A 64-YEAR-OLD councillor and former acting police authority chairman was found guilty of unlawful wounding after hitting a neighbour with a pickle handle. Dennis Jones, of Croes Pen Maen, south Wales, hit Alan Carter in a dispute over children playing in the street.

Fly London to Dublin for £9.99

THE COST of flying between Dublin and London has been cut to a one-way fare of £12.99. Ryanair made the move in a dispute over plans to increase airport landing charges in Dublin. The carrier's chief executive Michael O'Leary said that 99.9% of passengers had voted in a ballot to back the airline's stand against higher charges.

Firm fined over manure in water

ANGLIAN WATER was fined £15,000 with £5,521 costs for supplying water contaminated with bacteria from cow and pig manure. People suffered diarrhoea and stomach cramps. The company pleaded guilty at Ipswich Crown Court to providing water unfit for human consumption.

Damages for 'birthday treat' woman

A WOMAN injured in a helicopter crash on her 36th birthday was awarded £200,903 damages in the High Court yesterday. Ina Jacobs, of Carney Island, Essex, suffered a devastating injury to her hand in the crash at Southend airport in May 1993. The flight had been arranged as a birthday treat.

Striker's England caps found

ENGLAND CAPS and medals belonging to former striker Mark Hateley were found at a second-hand shop 150 miles from his home, from where they were stolen five years ago. Two men tried to sell them to a shop in Newcastle upon Tyne, but fled when the owner became suspicious.

DAVID MCKITTRICK

In Belfast, a political pressure-cooker is under construction

IN THE TUESDAY REVIEW PAGE 4

'Dandy' leprechaun is no joke, say Irish

A LEPRECHAUN by the name of Fiddle O'Diddle is at the centre of allegations of racism involving one of Britain's best-known comics.

The *Dandy*, home over the past 60 years to characters such as Desperate Dan and Bananaman, has been accused of deliberately trying to make the Irish look stupid.

Those leveling the accusations say it is particularly unpleasant because of the age of the comic's readers.

The offending character, O'Diddle, from fictitious Rathprune, sparked controversy when, in a recent edition of the comic, he was featured trying to grow a black-pudding tree. His catchphrase, which is regularly used, is "Sure 'ting."

Telephone lines to a Dublin radio show were jammed with listeners calling in to complain.

BY ANDREW BUNCOMBE

One farmer called the *Joe Duffy Livedite* show and said the comic's racism was sinister.

But staff at the Dundee-based *Dandy* were defiant yesterday, accusing detractors of political correctness and refusing to spike the leprechaun or alter his character.

The *Dandy*'s editor, Morris Heggie, devised O'Diddle during a visit to an Irish comic fair. He said: "In the story Fiddle O'Diddle from Rathprune is the smartest leprechaun in Ireland and most of the stories involve people trying to catch him for a crock of gold."

"I think it was the black-pudding story that has caused all this fuss. This is all madcap stuff. Both the heroes and villains in the story are Irish."

"We are portrayed as tight-

fisted, kilt-wearing, caber-tossing Scots, and it's the same with the English and the Welsh. No one is safe from being lampooned on our pages."

David Donaldson, managing director of the comic's publisher, DC Thomson, said readers were aware of the difference between the real world and life portrayed in the *Dandy*.

"Look at *Father Ted*. Nobody seriously believes all Irish priests are like that," said Mr Donaldson. He added: "It's been hard to water down any more. We have had minority pressure groups complaining about this and that."

Like many comics, the *Dandy* - first published in 1937 and still selling 100,000 copies a week - has had to cut down on violence, ruling out traditional scenes of punch-ups and corporal punishment.

Three in rooftop jailbreak

POLICE ARE hunting three prisoners who went on the run after making a spectacular rooftop escape.

They clambered to the top of an accommodation block after gaining access to an air vent in a shower-room. Prison officers gave chase across the roof at Featherstone prison, near Wolverhampton, and a fourth prisoner taking part in the break-out was caught before he could escape.

But the other three crossed

The escape took place at 6.30pm on Sunday, when prisoners are allowed to socialise as part of their "association" period.

The prisoners were named as Shane Middleton, from Birmingham, who had served four years of an 11-year sentence for robbery, Warren Bamford, from Redditch, West Midlands, serving four years for burglary, and Brendan Somerville, from Birmingham, who was serving three years for burglary.

Jury to visit site of war crimes

THE JUDGE and jury in Britain's first Nazi war crimes trial will next week visit Belarus in eastern Europe to see where four murders were allegedly committed more than 56 years ago. In an unprecedented move, the court will travel to the former Soviet republic as part of the trial of Anthony Sawoniuk.

Mr Sawoniuk, 77, from Bermondsey, south London, is alleged to have murdered four Jews, two men and two women, in 1942 while a police officer in what was then German-occupied territory.

Yesterday at the Old Bailey, the judge, Mr Justice Potts, told the jury the case they were trying was "highly unusual". He told them: "The defendant was a police officer serving in a small town called Domachevo, near Brest, while the German army occupied the region. It is alleged that he assisted the Germans in putting into effect the policy of mass murder of the

BY ANDREW BUNCOMBE

local Jewish population. "If either you or your family has suffered as a result of German action against Jewish or other races or religions then it would be better if you did not serve on this jury."

Mr Sawoniuk, a retired rail worker, is charged with four counts of murder on dates between 19 September and 31 December 1942. He has denied all charges.

Yesterday Mr Sawoniuk, thick-set, white-haired and wearing a grey pullover and red tie, sat at a table in the well of the court in front of the dock. He was silent as the jury was selected from a panel of 39 - all of whom had been told the trial could last to the end of March.

John Nutting QC, for the prosecution, told the jury the intention of the visit - arranged at the request of the defence - was to allow them to see where the crimes were said to have

been committed. He said: "The judge ordered that the jury have the advantage of visiting the scene where these events took place in order to better understand... the town itself, the terrain and the site where Mr Sawoniuk is alleged to have murdered a number of Jews."

He said that over the coming days, the Crown would call

Professor Christopher Browning, "an expert of matters relating to the Holocaust and... to the Final Solution".

The trial, which is certain to reopen the debate about whether defendants can receive a fair trial half a century after their alleged crimes, follows the passing in 1991 of the War Crimes Act. The Act ex-

tended British jurisdiction to cover alleged war crimes committed by non-British nationals in German-controlled territory during the Second World War.

At the time it was estimated there were about 300 possible war criminals in Britain - most of them former members of police units from the Baltic states and eastern Europe.

In 1996 a case involving Szymon Serafinowicz, who was accused on three specimen charges of murdering Jews in Belarus, collapsed before reaching trial. Mr Serafinowicz, 86, who denied the charges, was found to be suffering from Alzheimer's disease, heart problems and cancer. He died seven months later.

The case continues.

Anthony Sawoniuk, 77, leaving the Old Bailey yesterday. He is charged with murdering four people in Belarus in 1942

Mike Wheeler



Actress faces charity fund row

BY CLARE GARNER

PENELOPE KEITH was last night facing calls for her resignation as president of the Actors' Benevolent Fund. The actress, best-known for her roles in television comedies, was under pressure after the fund settled out of court a claim for wrongful dismissal from its former general secretary.

The agreement spared Ms Keith from having to give evidence to support the sacking of Rosemary Stevens, 48, who was at the charity for 16 years.

Michael Thornton, 58, author and fund supporter, called for Ms Keith, president for nine years, and the executive council to resign. He said it was the second employment tribunal claim to be resolved by the charity in six months. "They have chosen not to face the music," he said. "They should all go, and go now, handing over their responsibilities to others with better judgement and a greater sense of accountability to the members and supporters of the Actors' Benevolent Fund."

The acrimonious departure of Mrs Stevens, who held a £28,500-a-year post, last summer plunged the fund into crisis. The institution, founded in 1882, looks after retired and needy members of the theatrical profession. Four of the executive council's 16 members, including Nicholas Grace, who was in *Brideshead Revisited*, and Angharad Rees, star of *Poldark*, resigned in protest.

Ms Keith, 58, who starred in BBC Television's *The Good Life*, left the tribunal in central London without comment. Kathy Pavey, the fund's solicitor, described the settlement as "amicable" and said the terms would remain confidential.

A written statement from the fund council welcomed the settlement, saying: "The fund is running extremely efficiently. The president has the support of the whole council and does not intend to resign."

Private school firm to focus on performing arts

THE COMMERCIAL arm of a specialist school is set to become the first private company to run a British state school.

The education authority in Surrey said last night that the company 3 E's Enterprises, set up by Kingshurst City Technology College in Solihull in the West Midlands, was in the lead to secure the contract to run Kings' Manor, failing comprehensive school in Guildford.

BY JUDITH JUDD
Education Editor

Any profits will be ploughed back into Kings' Manor.

The firm says that it wants to establish a college which will focus on both the performing arts and technology. It said in its bid that it wanted "a high status college with students rather than pupils."

"The term 'students' will be

used to indicate the responsible approach to education that we will expect from the young people who attend."

It aims to make Kings' Manor one of the first life-long learning colleges of the 21st century, offering teaching for all age groups.

The firm, which has a panel of experts on academic standards and special needs, has the backing of more than 50 spon-

sors and has already raised £10m for two schools.

3 E's was in competition with CBT Educational Services, a not-for-profit consultancy and Nord Anglia, a consultancy that runs a string of private schools, careers services, teacher supply agencies and a supplier of school inspectors.

Surrey council said 3 E's emerged as the leading contender after consultation with

legal, financial and educational experts as well as teachers, pupils and parents.

Parents, who were originally unhappy about a takeover by a private company, said that their preference was for 3 E's.

"Kings' Manor is ideally placed to become one of the first educational establishments of the 21st century which provides life-long learning opportunities to enhance the qual-

ity of life of those of all ages in the area," the company said.

Surrey will pay the company a fee and performance related bonuses for meeting targets for improved exam results. Final details will now be negotiated.

Kings' Manor has places for 900, but is only half full. It is at the bottom of the county's league tables. Only 20 per cent of pupils gained five good GCSEs this year.

■ Professor David Guest, professor of occupational psychology at London University, and Tony Hope, visiting professor of accounting at the French business school INSEAD, said yesterday that Government plans to introduce performance related pay for teachers and nurses would not work. Professor Hope said that performance related pay was yesterday's reward system.

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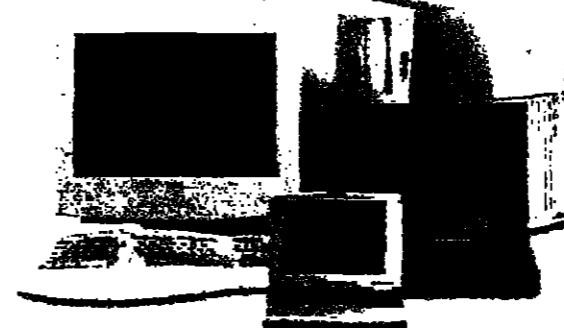
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'Support me' campaign by Livingstone

BY PAUL WAUGH
Political Correspondent

KEN LIVINGSTONE seized the initiative in his bid to become Mayor of London yesterday when he launched a high-profile public campaign to persuade Tony Blair to allow him to stand as Labour candidate.

In a move that took the party leadership by surprise, the former GLC leader went on the offensive with a full-page newspaper advertisement announcing a 'Back Ken' rally to be held next week.

The advert, in the London *Evening Standard*, will be followed by thousands of leaflets carrying the slogan 'Let Ken Livingstone Stand' as the Brent East MP takes his message directly to Londoners and party members.

Mr Livingstone's supporters hope that the campaign will attract enough support to make it too embarrassing for Labour to block him from any party shortlist for the mayoralty.

However, the new publicity blitz was immediately attacked by Blairite loyalists who dismissed it as a 'desperate, last-chance' tactic that was likely to backfire.

The rally at Central Hall, Westminster, will be backed by the comedian Jo Brand and the pop singer Billy Bragg and will focus a concerted attempt to set up a pro-Ken organisation with in each of the 14 districts forming the new Greater London Authority.

The advertisement, titled 'Read Ken!', uses nine of the MP's recent quotes to counter what he claims is an attempt by Millbank officials to smear him as a dangerous left-winger.

One of the quotes, taken from an open letter to Tony Blair last month, states: 'There is simply no question whatever of my seeking to use the mayoralty as a platform to wage political warfare against this

READ KEN!



The advert in yesterday's 'Evening Standard', and pop singer Billy Bragg who is backing Ken



Government.' Another quote, from *The Independent* last November, states: 'Personally I am in favour of Labour winning elections, which means selecting candidates from the widest and most representative pool, and taking the troops with you.'

The campaign will be funded by public contributions, he said, and appealed for supporters to send him 'a pint of a pint of lager or a pack of chips each week'.

Mr Livingstone stressed yesterday that he wanted to show the Prime Minister the strength of feeling among the ordinary public in the capital.

With the government is doing the right thing, some of

party members' and in the

nicest possible way dismissing me as a liar.

That is why yesterday I

launched a campaign not to be

come mayor, but to allow Lon

don Labour Party members

the right to choose who they

wish as their candidate. At

7.30pm next Monday Jo Brand

has agreed to chair the first

rally of this campaign at Meth

od Central Hall, Westminster.

The Millbank Tendency have

spent months giving off-the

record briefings to journalists

rubbing my record as leader

of the GLC. This is a bit odd

given that virtually all the

controversial policies that caused

a stir back in 1981 have

now become mainstream

Labour policy. It's not just the

easy issues of pro-public trans

port priorities and democratic

control of the police—the GLC's

battle against discrimination

was a major contribution in win

ning the hearts and minds of ordi

nary members. We now have

over 100 women Labour MPs,

a black senior Minister and

openly gay Cabinet ministers.

Even our most controversial

policy of beginning a dialogue

with Sinn Fein is now seen to

have been right. What a tragedy

that Mrs Thatcher didn't follow

our lead and save the thousand

lives that were lost in the in

tervening years.

So far every survey has

shown that I am the leading

party political candidate in the

polls. In the last poll I even over

took Richard Branson. Given

that this election will take place

in May 2000, in the mid-term of

the government and after what

may be a rather grim year eco

nomically, it would be mad

not to let the members

choose from amongst the

strongest contenders. Simply

because the Tories are cur

rently lagging in the polls does

not mean that we should take

Londoners' votes for granted.

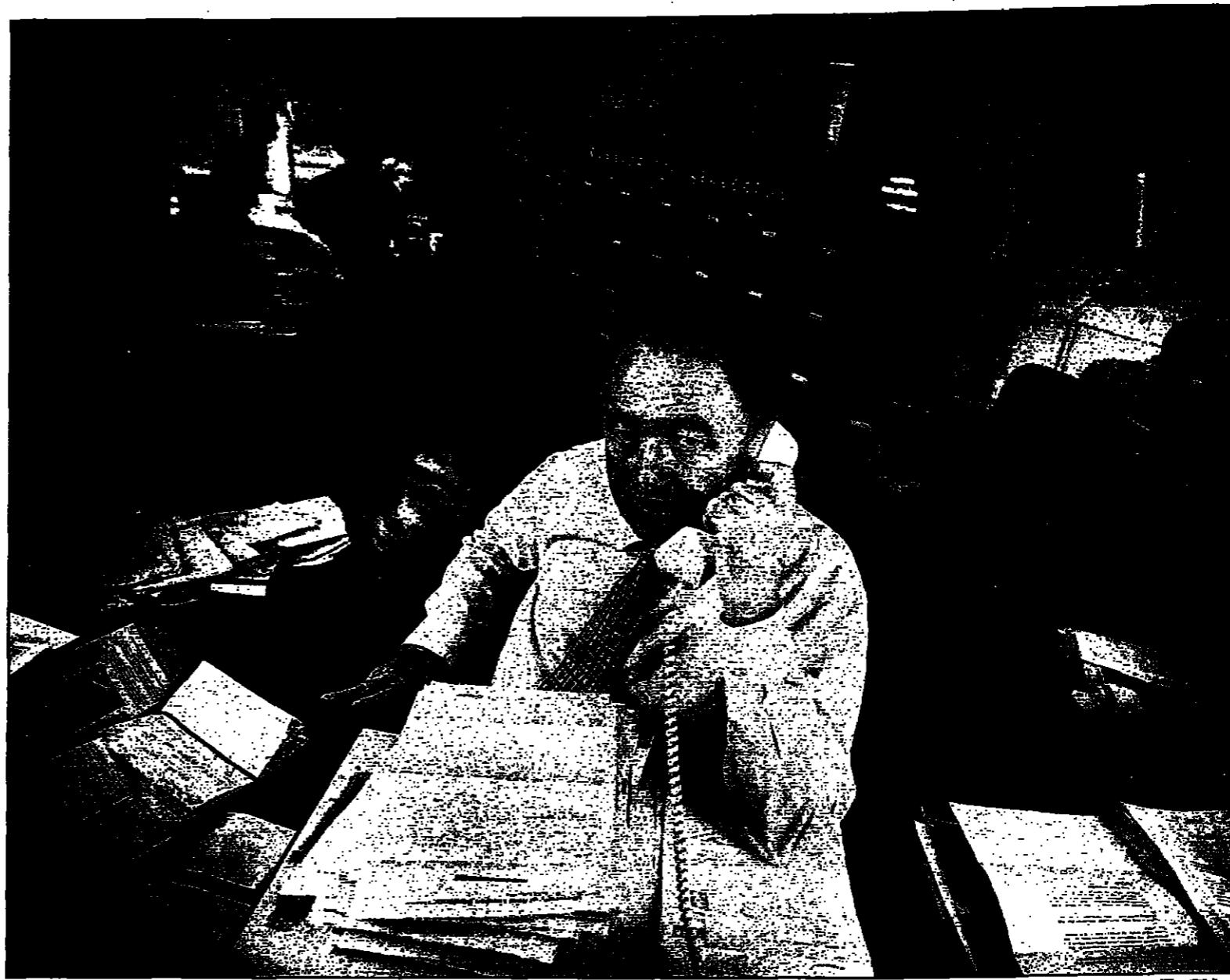
Nor am I merely the first

choice of old Labour senti

mentalists. Two weeks ago the

Evening Standard reported a

poll in which 500 company di



Why I'm challenging my party to let me stand for mayor

SETTING UP a new government for London should have been nothing but good news for Tony Blair's administration.

After 13 years as the only capital city in the western world without a democratically elected government, giving Londoners back the chance to elect and to sack the people running their city was so obviously the right thing to do that in the end the Tories went along with it – even though they had to lock Mrs Thatcher in the cellar whilst doing so.

But while the government is

not achieving the 10 nomination quota. Instead of ac

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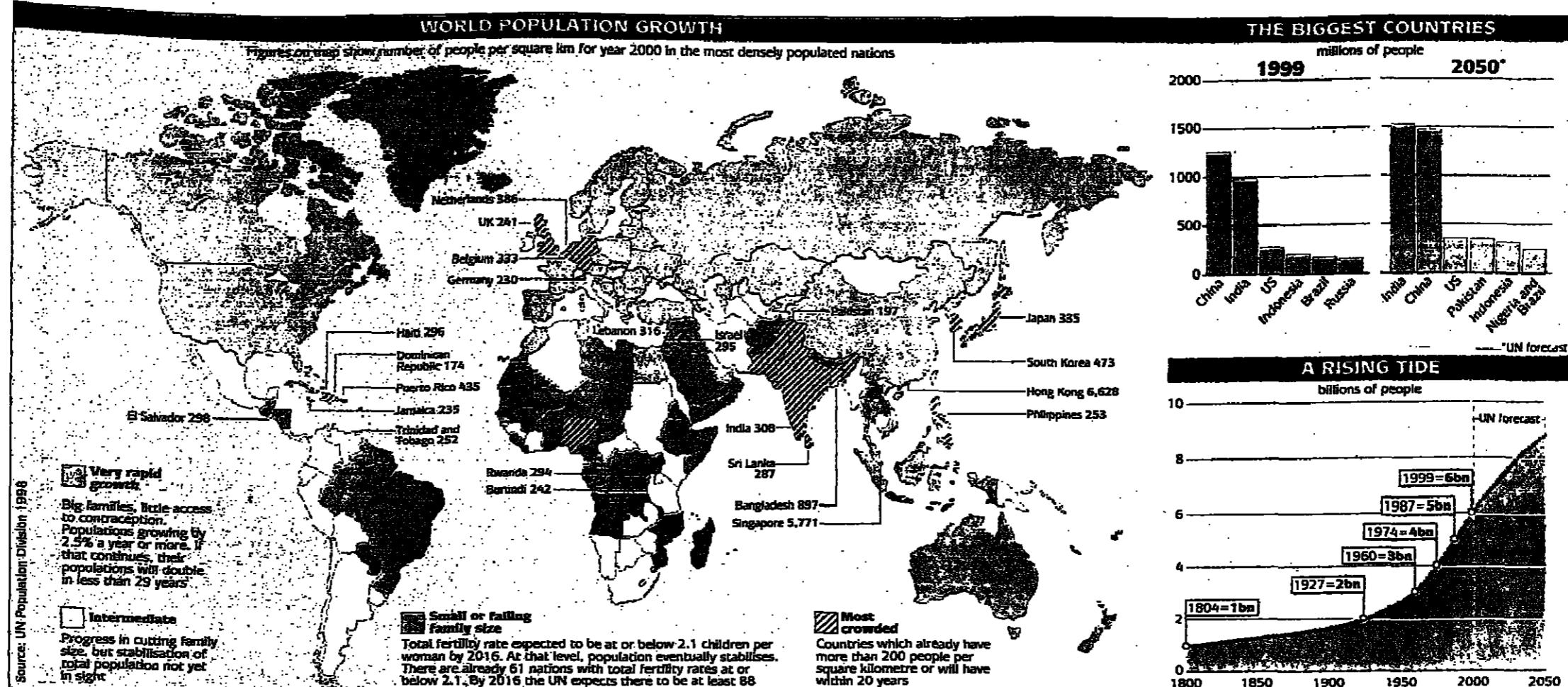
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World population to top 6 billion

BY NICHOLAS SCHOON

ON 12 OCTOBER this year – give or take a week – the human population of Earth will reach six billion. It has risen by a billion in just a dozen years, and almost quadrupled during the 20th century.

The data was presented at a conference yesterday in The Hague as delegates from 180 nations gathered in the Netherlands for the United Nations Hague Forum to debate how to slow the rising tide of human numbers which is still threatening disaster across much of the globe.

Earth has never been so demographically divided. At one extreme, wealthy Western nations where fertility has been falling worry about the strains on their economies imposed by a fast-growing bulge of elderly, retired people. A group of Eastern European nations and Russia have seen a dramatic decline in birth

rates; if the trend continues their populations will fall fast.

At the other extreme is a clutch of developing nations which already rely on food imports and seem entrapped by a combination of poverty and high population growth and density.

Lacking resources, and with nearly all their fertile land in use, the prospects for places such as Bangladesh, Pakistan, Egypt and Haiti appear bleak.

Furthermore, an endless cycle of wars in developing countries is hurting women and drowning out the message that family planning brings social benefits, the conference was told.

"It is pointless to talk about family-planning issues or reproductive health when women are in situations of conflict and genocide," said Nana Rawlings,



Nana Rawlings: 'Women are struggling to survive'

the wife of Ghana's President, Jerry Rawlings. Goals, such as universal access to reproductive health services by 2015, were meaningless when women had to struggle to survive, she argued in a keynote speech.

Globally, the growth in human numbers is slowing. Even so, the population will reach 8.9 billion in 2050, according to the latest forecast of the UN Population Division. And it will not level off until around 2200, by which time there will be nearly 11 billion people alive.

The slowdown is happening because women in more and more countries are able to have fewer children, and are choosing to do so. There is a web of causes – higher standards of living, greater access to contraception, changing attitudes and declining infant mortality which gives mothers more reason to believe their babies will survive.

But big families and overpopulation still stunt hundreds of millions of lives across the world. The Hague Forum, which brings together 1,500 delegates from governments,

charities, campaigning groups and academia, is trying to reach agreement on what more needs to be done. Hillary Clinton, the wife of the United States President, will speak there today on her way back to Washington from King Hussein's funeral in Jordan.

"Before the dawn of the next millennium, the six billionth human inhabitant of this planet will be born," the Dutch Health Minister, Els Borst-Eilers, said in an opening speech.

"The crucial question is to what extent that child will be able to live a dignified, productive and happy life."

The forum is part of the follow-up to a huge UN Population Conference held in Cairo five years ago, and a prelude to a larger follow-up conference next month which ministers will attend. An overwhelming majority of the world's nations

agreed on a 20-year plan of action to spread family planning and boost women's health, education and rights – the keys to reducing high fertility rates. The aim was for universal access to affordable reproductive health services by 2015.

Since then, there has been progress, but many pressure groups and delegates from developing countries gathering in The Hague were complaining that most wealthy Western nations had not fulfilled their commitments.

In signing up to that action plan, nations agreed that the developing and former Communist countries should be spending \$17 bn (£10.7bn) on meeting their commitments by 2000, and \$21.7 bn by 2015. Wealthy, developed countries should meet one-third of this cost, in the form of aid and loans on easy terms.

But, according to Population Action International, an independent United States-based pressure group, the industrialised nations are now contributing less than half their share. Campaigner Sally Shelton singled out France and Italy for particular criticism. The Scandinavian nations and the Netherlands had met their commitments, while the US, Britain, Japan and Germany were lagging behind.

■ The West's official aid for the world's poorest countries has fallen to the lowest level in a decade, new figures revealed yesterday. And as a proportion of rich countries' income, the figures have not been smaller since records began nearly 40 years ago. An Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development report showed aid in 1997 was \$49.8bn (around £30bn) against \$57.9bn in 1996.

"If you spend most of your hours with schoolchildren, sometimes you behave like a child."

Teacher jailed over cruelty

BY MICHAEL BRISTOW

A LANGUAGE teacher who forced a 14-year-old boy to lie bare-chested on drawing pins after getting his Spanish homework wrong was jailed for six weeks yesterday.

Kevin Hawkins, 40, of Hardwicke, near Gloucester, also forced the pupil to walk barefoot across drawing pins.

Hawkins was given a three-month prison sentence, half of which was suspended, after admitting common assault at South Gloucestershire magistrates' court in Stroud.

He was told by Yvonne Cant, one of the magistrates: "You were in a position of trust and authority. At your instruction a pupil who, at the age of 14 must be considered vulnerable, was subjected to a completely unprovoked assault."

Martin Satchell, for the prosecution, said Hawkins, a teacher at a school near Stroud, had told the teenager to call at his home last November after the pupil failed to hand in his Spanish homework on time.

He forced the boy on Spanish verbs and told him to perform a forfeit for each one he got wrong. The first was to stand on one leg, the second was to do five press-ups and the third was to walk across drawing pins scattered on a floor.

For the next forfeit, Hawkins told the boy to remove his top and lie bare-chested on the pins. The teenager suffered a minor puncture wound to his chest and reported the matter to his school and police.

Conrad Sheward, for the defence, said Hawkins had resigned after the incident, ending a 17-year teaching career. "Teaching can be a very fulfilling occupation, but sometimes it can distort the development of the teacher."

"If you spend most of your hours with schoolchildren, sometimes you behave like a child."

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Darling bubbles on and on while backbenchers daydream

SOCIAL SECURITY questions do not normally set the House of Commons on fire and yesterday afternoon was no exception.

Alistair Darling, the Social Security Secretary, burbled on and on about Green Papers on pensions and Green Papers on fraud.

Dr Ian Gibson (Lab, Norwich North) raised "the Great Yarmouth anomaly" and briefly woke MPs from their daydreaming to fathom this constitutional question when they learned that it was something to do with unscrupulous employers in East Anglia evading national insurance contributions by making wages payments in the form of lun-

cheon vouchers. Stephen Timms, a Social Security minister, seemed to be worried about the dangers to the catering industry by being too anti-luncheon voucher.

Questions went from bad to worse with interminable exchanges on the "Single Work Focus Gateway" and the "Benefits Integrity Project" which baffled most MPs.

Ms Oona King (Lab, Bethnal Green and Bow) made us jump when she asked Social security minister Angela Eagle about "H.E.T." Thinking this was about hormone replacement therapy Nicholas Soames (Con, Mid-Sussex) looked excited but slumped back with dis-

THE SKETCH



MICHAEL BROWN

Such is the Government's determination to seek good headlines that it recycles the same announcement in different places

at different times by different ministers. Last June Tony Blair announced plans for a National Strategy. Yesterday the "Strategy" was published. No doubt later in the year we shall have a consultation paper on the "Strategy". Next year the results of the consultation will be announced and the following year (probably election year) the "Strategy" will be finally implemented.

From Mr Boating there was much talk of initiatives, packages, objectives and yet more "strategies" all of which would help carers.

What practical difference will be made to the unsung army of carers was still open to doubt by the end

of the afternoon. Mr Boating rehashed an extra £750 million which had already been announced weeks ago in the local authority financial statement. There was an extra £140 million but close listening showed that this was to be spread over three years and amounted to no more than £20 million for the forthcoming year.

He appeared irritated when

Philip Hammond (Con, Runnymede & Weybridge) cast doubt on the

"gap between the rhetoric and the

reality". Mr Hammond worked Mr Boating into an angry lather when he told the minister that it was "all

jam tomorrow, nothing today".

Mr Boating should be grateful to the Liberal Democrats for their response, because I suspect that most carers will rightly be similarly ungrateful.

Hurd joins Lords review

ROYAL COMMISSION

By COLIN BROWN
Chief Political Correspondent

LORD HURD, the former foreign secretary, was last night named as the second former minister to serve on the Royal Commission on Lords Reform in a move to silence the Tory critics.

Lord Hurd's presence on the Commission alongside the chairman, Lord Wakeham, the former chief whip in the Thatcher government, will make it difficult for the Conservative leadership to criticise the final report for party political bias.

Labour MPs were surprised by the inclusion in the list of Bill Morris, the general secretary of the Transport and General Workers Union, busy with management changes at the Rover Longbridge plant. Lady Dean and Gerald Kaufman, the sharp-tongued chairman of the Commons select committee on Culture, Media and Sport are the other key Labour appointments, made by Tony Blair.

Their task will be to recommend long term changes to the Lords in a report to the Government before the end of the year. The issues will include whether or not the Lords should be directly elected.

Ministers seek to head off benefits revolt

ALISTAIR DARLING, the Secretary of State for Social Security, last night sought to head off a backbench revolt over cuts in benefits by strongly defending the reforms which will be reinforced by a new Bill.

Social security ministers have been briefing selected groups of Labour MPs to avert a rebellion when the Government's Welfare Reform Bill is published tomorrow to establish a "single gateway" for claimants to seek work.

Mr Darling also yesterday refused to deny a report in the *Saturday Independent* that the Chancellor planned to tax child benefit for those on the higher tax rate of 40 per cent in his Budget on 9 March, but to soften the blow by raising the benefit.

Leading members of the Campaign Group of left-wing Labour MPs are ready to oppose the tax on child benefit, but those on the centre-left said last night that they would support it on the grounds that it would tax the rich to protect the poor. The possible tax came under fierce attack by Francis Maude, the shadow Chancellor, who dismissed the plans as a "tax

SOCIAL SECURITY

By COLIN BROWN AND SARAH SCHAEFER

burden on hard-working families by stealth".

But Mr Darling insisted the Bill would introduce a new culture into the benefits system. "There is no unconditional right to benefit. We will do something to help people but in turn, they have got to do something to help themselves," he said.

Earlier, Mr Darling confirmed that ministers were looking at the abolition of benefits for convicted offenders, as "a matter of social justice".

Iain Duncan Smith, the Tory social security spokesman, dismissed the proposals as "quite a small move".

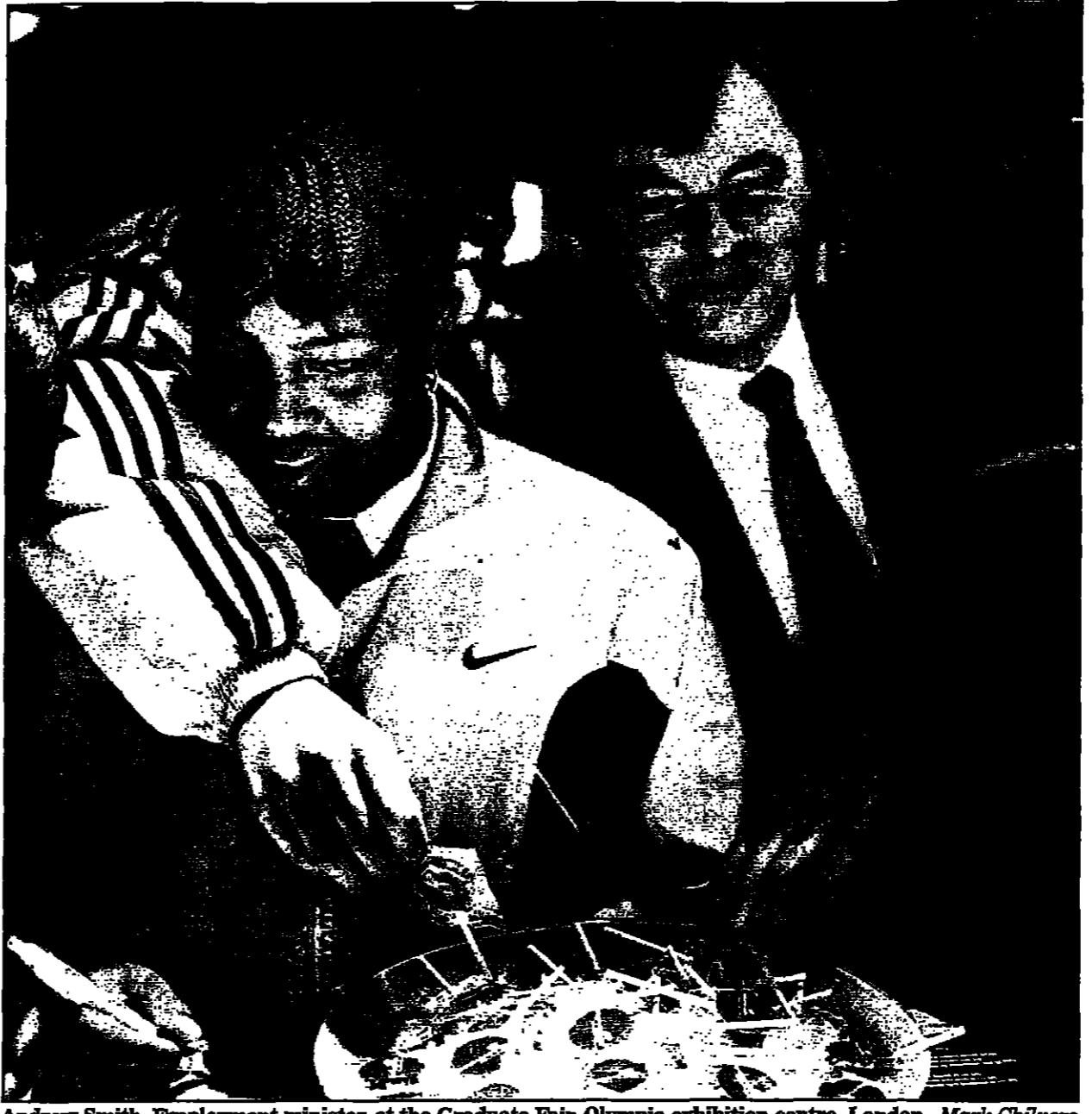
In the Commons, Mr Darling announced that Treasury ministers were taking over responsibility for national insurance contributions (NICs) policy from his own department in April. The change, combined with transferring NIC administration to the Inland Revenue, would provide a better service, help lift burdens on business and provide clear ac-

countability to MPs, he said.

But Frank Field, the former minister for welfare reform, said the "fundamental change" would practically abolish Mr Darling's department. The MP for Birkenhead said: "We are talking about half your budget and the policy decisions are now going to be determined in the Treasury."

However, in the second reading debate on the Social Security Contributions (Transfer of Functions) Bill, Mr Darling said: "Any talk of the end of the DSS is premature. What we are talking about is ensuring that those responsible for policy and operations... should be housed under one roof." He said it would simplify the distinction between policy and operations.

Iain Duncan Smith said the New Deal programme to get lone parents back to work had been a failure, with a "strike rate" of people going back into work of just over 5 per cent, at a cost of £15,000 per job. Replying, Angela Eagle, Social Security minister, said 88,662 letters had been sent to lone parents up to December; 27,231 joined the scheme and 5,881 found jobs.



Andrew Smith, Employment minister, at the Graduate Fair, Olympia exhibition centre, London. Mark Chisholm

Send a Valentine message to your loved one and you could WIN a weekend for two at Grayshott Hall



"In the Spring a young man's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of love", wrote Alfred, Lord Tennyson, and once again this year The Independent will be publishing your romantic, mysterious, funny and just plain daft messages to your loved one (and of course you don't have to be young or a man to indulge). In time for Valentine's Day we will send on your behalf an anonymous card telling the recipient to look for his/her personal message in The Independent on Sunday.

The sender of the best and most original message published will win a fabulous weekend for two at Grayshott Hall Health Fitness Retreat in Surrey - the former country home of Tennyson - and the runner-up will win a midweek two-night stay for two.

So just compose your message, follow the instructions below - and then you can start dreaming of two days unwinding with your loved one in beautiful, relaxing surroundings, revitalising your bodies with rejuvenating hydrotherapy, swimming together in the heated indoor pool, getting back into trim in the gym, enjoying natural therapies...and, of course, delicious and healthy food!

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Cook to stand by officials in row over Sierra Leone

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

By FRAN ABRAMS
Westminster Correspondent

An aside to Mr Cook said he discussed the issue with Sir John yesterday at a regular meeting. On the basis of leaks about the report he felt it would be wrong for officials to be subjected to new criticism. "This inquiry does not appear to have uncovered new facts which would change the central findings of Legg. There was no connivance, no cover-up. That's why he feels it would be unfair to officials to put them through the wringer again."

A British firm of mercenaries, Sandline International, supplied arms to the exiled government of Ahmed Tejan Kabba in breach of a UN embargo but escaped prosecution. They claimed Foreign Office officials knew of their activities.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

People taking shorter breaks

SHORT BREAKS accounted for 53 per cent of holidays taken within the United Kingdom in 1997 and have increased by 18 per cent since 1994, Janet Anderson, the minister for tourism, said.

Jail shake-up

THE MEDICAL service at Holloway women's prison in north London is undergoing a shake-up after an internal inquiry found "serious shortcomings", said George Howarth, the Home Office minister.

Organic Dome

VISITORS to the Millennium Dome in Greenwich will be able to purchase food free of genetically modified products, said Janet Anderson, the minister for tourism.

Sir John will receive the most severe criticism in the report from the Commons Foreign Affairs Select Committee. Members were angered by his refusal to answer their questions while another inquiry by Sir Thomas Legg was continuing. The MPs also became embroiled in a dispute with the Foreign Office last summer over access to telegrams sent by British officials who fled Sierra Leone in May 1997 after a coup. The committee's inquiry was refused permission to interview the head of MI6, Sir David Speedy, and faced Foreign Office resistance over access to official dispatches. Sir David gave evidence instead to the intelligence committee, which meets in private.

The committee's report will be far more hard-hitting than the inquiry by Sir Thomas, which reported in July. Sir John will be held largely responsible for failings in his department, though some other officials, including Britain's High Commissioner to Sierra Leone, Peter Penfold, will be treated more gently. Although he lunched with Sandline representatives, the committee felt he was not given enough support after the coup.

Hague rejects green tax plans

ENVIRONMENT

By COLIN BROWN

just impose more and more green taxes, you put up costs, make Britain less competitive and destroy people's jobs and livelihoods.

"This is not what my party, or any positive blue-green agenda, should be about. I support the principle that the taxation system can be used to achieve environmental objectives, but my party and I do not and will not support environmental taxes if they are merely used as an excuse to raise the level of taxation overall."

The Chancellor is expected to announce a change in the way he taxes company cars from the cost of the vehicle to penalising large cars with poor fuel efficiency. He has already announced his intention of charging owners of small engined cars £50 less than the £150 car tax.

Mr Hague will tell a business environment awards ceremony: "There is a fundamental problem with green taxes. They are not what businesses call 'win-win'. For if you

THE HOUSE



Patients could be in danger

PATIENTS COULD be put in danger because there is no legal requirement for doctors to be able to speak English, Lord Astor of Hever, a Tory peer claimed.

MEP's apology

TOM SPENCER, the disgraced Conservative MEP spoke in a personal statement to the European Parliament.

Business today

Commons, 2.30pm: Questions on the Environment, Transport and the Regions. Employment Relations Bill, second reading. Lords: 2.30pm: Health Bill, second reading. Debate on university rented students' accommodation.

daydream

Hurd
joins
Lords
review

ROYAL COMMISSION

Thousands of young carers to get help

UP TO 50,000 schoolchildren may look after elderly, sick or disabled members of their families yet many receive no support, the Government admitted yesterday. Announcing the first strategy to help Britain's estimated six million carers, the Government said young carers were potentially among "the most disadvantaged".

But the previous lack of action meant the scale of the problem was unknown. A new question in the national census in 2001 will be used to establish exactly how many children and adults are affected. In a joint statement by government ministers yesterday, Paul Boateng, Margaret Hodge, Hilary Armstrong and John Hutton promised to achieve a change in society so that the needs of people looking after elderly or disabled relatives were addressed.

More than 850,000 people are estimated to provide care for more than 50 hours a week and three-fifths receive no regular visitor-support services. Existing services were "patchy", the Government admitted. The Prime Minister, in a foreword to the new strategy document, *Caring About Carers*, wrote of his own experience. "When I was a boy, I

By LOUISE JURY

watched my own mother care for my father after he had a stroke. Like her, there are now many people - daughters, sons, parents, relatives, friends and neighbours - who give help and support in many, many ways to those they're caring for," Mr Blair said.

Many schoolchildren have to shoulder the responsibility of caring for a relative single-handedly. Kathy Bell, 19, looked after her wheelchair-bound mother until she left home to go to university. Although her mother, Rita, tried to give her a normal life, being a carer affected her school work, her emotional health and her social life. Ms Bell said at the launch of the Government's national strategy for carers at Downing Street yesterday.

"It was an emotional strain more than anything. I did the shopping, fetching and carrying, but I always felt very guilty for wishing mum would get better. It was just the lack of having a parent around the house and company in the evening that was hard. She tried to give me as normal a childhood as possible."

Ms Bell cared for her divorced mother who was in

her early 50s, until she left her home in Cranleigh, Surrey, to study drama and English.

Then she was forced, reluctantly to leave her mother in the care of social services. She still telephones her daily, however, and visits her every week and during the holidays.

Among the measures announced by the Government yesterday were £140m to provide respite care. Mr Boateng, who launched the inquiry into carers last June, said the aim was to provide relief for a few hours a week and also for longer periods of respite care.

He called for more carer-friendly employment measures similar to those already introduced for working mothers and announced proposals for "personal advisers" to help carers keep in touch with the jobs market and return to work once they have finished caring.

There is also a long-term commitment to make amends for loss of pensions contributions by adding up to 250 a week, in today's terms, to carers' pensions by 2050.

Margaret Hodge said that although young carers would benefit from some of these measures, they also had particular needs.

Many suffered problems at



John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, with Kathy Bell, one of the carers who visited Downing Street for yesterday's launch

school with completing homework and lack of time for play or sport activities.

They also feared that if they highlighted their problems they would be taken into care themselves and needed to be reassured that they could and should ask for help.

Francine Bates, of the Carers' National Association, welcomed the strategy. "This is the

first time we have had a commitment by the Government to funding and services," she said. The association was concerned as to whether the money would be enough and how consistently the services would be delivered and monitored, but the principles were sound.

Margaret Coombs, of the Oxfordshire Community Care

Action Group, which lobbied Parliament yesterday over £15m of cuts to the Oxfordshire social services budget, said the financial problems councils were facing across the country made a "nonsense" of the carers' strategy.

Ms Bell said she hoped that others would get the support she had not received. In par-

ticular, she noted the idea of mentors or adults forming a links between school and home to give young carers someone to talk to. "This strategy is almost 12 years too late for me, but I hope it helps other young people caring for disabled parents," Ms Bell said.

Leading article, Review, page 3

Blair's caring, sharing family comes to aid of the party

By PAUL WAUGH
Political Correspondent

TONY BLAIR backed the new carers strategy yesterday with a highly personal account of his own family's experience of support for an elderly relative.

Before he flew to Jordan for King Hussein's funeral, the Prime Minister told BBC Radio 4's *Today* programme that his late mother, Hazel, had spent years as a carer for his grandmother, Sally Corscadden.

"My mother looked after her mother when she developed severe dementia and all the rest of it," Mr Blair revealed.

"We never thought of ourselves as carers. My mother would have been quite surprised at being given that title. Most people in that position feel



Tony Blair with his parents, Hazel and Leo. His mother spent years caring for his grandmother

the same way about it," he said. "It was only in later life, when he started considering the matter in policy terms, that he had realised "there are millions of people out there who are carers, who have huge problems as a result".

For a man who jealously guards the privacy of his family, a stance that led him to report a newspaper to the Press Complaints Commission over a report about his daughter Kathryn's schooling, Mr Blair's remarks may come as a surprise. However, his comments about his mother are just the latest example of prime ministerial candour about the impact on his political thinking of his family background.

In his crucial Labour Party conference speech before the general election he departed from his script to relate how his father Leo's stroke had forced him to abandon his own political career.

With Mr Blair senior sitting in the front row with other members of the family, the

Labour leader moved his audience almost to tears with a description of how his character had been shaped by the illness that forced his father, a barrister, to abandon hopes of becoming a Tory MP.

"One morning I woke to be told that he had had a stroke in the middle of the night and might not live through the day, and my whole world fell apart," he said.

The Prime Minister used

his experience again last year when he launched a campaign by the Stroke Association for a better deal for sufferers. He was 10 when his father had his stroke at the age of 40. "Stroke often receives far too little attention when compared to the other big killer illnesses," he said. "I know from personal experience it is an enormous problem, which has a profound effect on people's lives."

In March 1997, Mr Blair re-

vealed that an aunt of his wife Cherie had died from breast cancer, as he announced Labour's pledge that no woman would have to wait more than a fortnight for surgery to tackle the disease.

"I know how it can hit a family terribly," he said. "I want to ensure that the NHS will provide the best quality and most appropriate care in these circumstances."

In February 1998, Mr Blair

gave his crucial backing to the Millennium Dome with an announcement that its contents would have to pass the "Euan test" and satisfy his 13-year-old son. Dismissing the "cynics and snipers", he said: "I want today's children to take from it an experience so powerful and memories so strong that it gives them that abiding sense of purpose and unity that stays with them through the rest of their lives."

Air-rage trial told of insults by two drunken policemen

By CLARE GARNER

"They called us 'dykes' and that upset me greatly because my husband had not been dead very long ... When the film came on I was not interested in it because it was *The Full Monty*, but they were laughing uproariously about the film and they started to get personal."

"They started to say, 'Why aren't these wenching in front?' and 'Why aren't they having a drink?' We were immediately in from of them. One of the men had their feet across the aisle and women had step over him. One of the men remarked: 'I wouldn't mind getting her between my loins'."

Insp Gareth Perrett, 49, and his son, Constable Richard Perrett, 26, who both serve with the West Yorkshire force, referred to two elderly widows as "dykes" and mocked them for not watching the British hit film about male strippers, it was alleged yesterday.

One of their alleged victims, Helen Bartlett, 78, of Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffordshire, told Manchester Crown Court:

of in-flight movie ... Behaviour that may be just boorish can become distressing and even threatening for persons who have no choice but to be in close proximity for a considerable period of time."

Insp Perrett and his son were arrested in February last year, with their friend, Peter Beck, 55, a publican shortly after the Britannia Airways Boeing 767 touched down at Manchester airport. The three men, from Halifax, West Yorkshire, had been on a golfing holiday in Florida. Yesterday they pleaded not guilty to drunkenness on an aircraft.

Mr Metcalfe said the drinks served on the flight were not the defendants' "only source of liquor". "One passenger saw Richard Perrett in possession of a litre bottle of gin he was handing out amongst his group."

As the seven-and-a-half-hour flight went on, the three defendants' behaviour deteriorated. "They became more noisy and rowdy and their behaviour became abusive and aggressive towards other passengers who complained," Mr Metcalfe said.

The second complainant, 71-year-old Betty Bailey, of Wakefield, West Yorkshire, told the court the defendants had started drinking before the aircraft took off. "They were bragging and showing off ... I think they were all trying to intimidate us."

The two women were eventually given new seats. The three men, who refused to surrender their passports when asked to do so by a stewardess, only quietened down after the pilot had spoken to them.

The trial continues.

Council staff claim equal pay

By BARRIE CLEMENT
Labour Editor

BRITAIN'S BIGGEST union yesterday launched a campaign for equal pay on behalf of up to a million women who work for local authorities. It could cost the Government hundreds of millions of pounds.

Unison, the public service union, warned that while it wanted to close the "massive gulf" in pay by negotiation, it would also resort to court action.

After years of campaigning, employees' representatives said yesterday that women were prepared to be patient, "but they can't wait for ever".

The union has recently

backed four cases on behalf of school-meals workers and nursery nurses, which cost local authorities more than £20m in compensation and back pay. There are half a dozen more cases in the pipeline and the union says there will be others unless ministers devote substantial funds to deal with the problem.

Heather Wakefield, Unison national officer, said: "We want the Government to recognise that inequality in pay is a very serious problem. Money needs to be made available to local authorities to rectify the anomaly. We would prefer to

negotiate, but the Government and local authorities should be in no doubt that ultimately we will take court action."

Local government is the single biggest employer of women in Britain - of the 1.4 million employees, nearly one million are female. Among the groups involved in the drive for equality are home-care workers, secretaries, typists, clerks, school-meals workers, nursery nurses, cleaning staff and care assistants. The union estimates that women in local authorities earn only 78 per cent of the amount paid to male colleagues.

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to find out

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Ernest Jones

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Scandal of Aids transfusions puts ex-ministers in the dock

BY JOHN LICHFIELD
in Paris
AND STEVE CONNOR
Science Editor

THE SCANDAL over who was to blame for supplying HIV-contaminated blood in the Eighties reopens today in a trial that could rock the French political system and will have grave implications for a Cambridge University professor.

The former Socialist prime minister Laurent Fabius and two of his ministers appear before a special court in Paris charged with manslaughter. They are accused of bowing to commercial pressure to permit HIV-infected blood to remain in use in the French health service for five months after the danger to patients was established in 1985.

The trial is being watched closely by Jean-Pierre Allain, who is professor of transfusion medicine at Cambridge and a former honorary director of the local blood transfusion service. He has been called as a witness due to his role - and earlier conviction - for supplying HIV-contaminated blood products to French haemophiliacs.

Professor Allain, former head of research for the French blood transfusion service, may exercise his right not to appear at the trial on grounds he faces the possibility of a further case to answer the more serious allegations of poisoning patients.

Professor Allain, 56, served a two-year sentence for the lesser charge of "fraudulent description of goods", a legal nicely used to describe how knowingly supplied untreated blood products to haemophiliacs.

The latest trial involves two ex-ministers, both retired from politics, accused of allowing the transfusion service to use old stock for haemophiliacs, even though it was known they could be contaminated with HIV. As a direct result, it is alleged, seven people were infected unnecessarily with the Aids virus. Five have died. These are sample charges. It is estimated 350 people in France were unnecessarily infected with HIV after the first clear warnings.

The trial will be the first for half a century in which former ministers are brought to book for political decisions in office. It will be the first to be heard by the new Cour de Justice de la République, in which erring ministers are tried by judges and fellow politicians.

If convicted, the ex-ministers face up to five years' jail. Crit-



Allain: Guilty at earlier trial and facing new case

ics say the trial is another example of how far the country has lurched from a climate of immunity for politicians to a potentially equally undemocratic era of "government by judges". The blood saga, which caused profound revulsion against the political establishment, is one reason for the change.

The controversy has already produced two criminal trials of officials and doctors, four of whom were sentenced to jail for providing contaminated goods, including Professor Allain.

In another development, an investigating magistrate is expected this week to recommend that a charge of "poisoning" should be brought against Professor Allain and 16 other officials and doctors.

He has been supported by senior colleagues, including Robin Carr, who, as head of Cambridge's haemophilia department, was responsible for recommending his appointment.

Professor Allain received his full professorial salary of £37,000 while in jail, which was initially paid out of NHS funds via the now-defunct East Anglian Regional Blood Transfusion Service, and then by ex-gratia university payments.

The transfusion service, aware of the potential embarrassment of employing a senior scientist who was a convicted criminal, set up in 1985 an "independent" inquiry, led by Baroness Warnock, into Professor Allain's actions.

The inquiry, which met three times and interviewed one witness other than Professor Allain, concluded there was no reason to believe he was unfit to hold office "and that the public may be assured of his commitment to good practice".

Since his release from prison, the transfusion service has refused to allow Professor Allain direct access to patients. "He is now employed by the university. He no longer is hon-



The former French prime minister Laurent Fabius, who with two ex-ministers goes on trial today over the HIV-blood scandal

orary director of the transfusion service," a spokeswoman said yesterday.

It appears one of his next appointments could be as a witness in the trial of Mr Fabius and the others.

Mr Fabius was the youngest prime minister in French history when appointed by the late President François Mitterrand in 1984 at the age of 38. It is alleged that he agreed or failed to prevent a deliberate delay in the systematic HIV testing of blood owned by the French health system from March to August 1985.

Professor Allain said he informed his superiors of the risk from contaminated blood products in January 1985 but that his warnings were ignored. France had yet to introduce heat-treated blood products, which could eliminate the risk of HIV infection, and an AIDS blood test to check donors.

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An American company, Abbott, was already marketing an

HIV test but the French government came under intense lobbying pressure to refuse the American product and allow time for a French company, Diagnostics Pasteur, to develop a rival test.

The commercial implications, for sales of the test not just in France but throughout the world, are said to have been enormous.

In a statement to the National Assembly on 19 June 1985, Mr Fabius announced that no blood samples would be screened immediately.

It is alleged that the dangers were known from March and that the tests were not actually applied until August. It is alleged that Mr Fabius either condoned this delay or that he was negligent in failing to prevent it. The former prime minister, now president (speaker) of the National Assembly, says it was impossible for him to keep abreast of this level of administrative detail.

The two former ministers, Georgina Dubois, who was social affairs minister at the time, and Edmond Hervé, junior health minister, are also accused of conniving at, or failing in their duty to prevent, this delay. They are also accused of having ultimate responsibility for the decisions of the blood transfusion service - the Centre National de Transfusion Sanguine (CNTS) - to use up expensive but HIV-contaminated stocks of blood products for haemophiliacs.

It was this policy for which Professor Allain, then deputy head of the CNTS, was convicted and jailed.

Today's trial will take place, controversially, not in a court room nor even in parliament but in a conference room just off the Elysée normally used for large diplomatic gatherings. The three accused will be judged by 12 MPs - seven from the centre-right and five from the left - and three judges. Families of the victims will give evidence but they are, otherwise, not allowed to take part in the proceedings or to appoint lawyers to defend their interests in court.

For all these reasons the victims' families have dismissed the proceedings in advance as a whitewash. The three defendants, supported by senior politicians and commentators on both sides of the political divide, have criticised the trial as a dangerous invasion of politics by the judiciary. Any political failings, they say, should be judged by the electorate, not a part-political, part-judicial court. Ms Dubois has admitted political negligence but, in a celebrated phrase, says she regards herself as "responsible but not guilty".

Cook applies pressure at Kosovo peace talks

BY RUPERT CORNWELL

MORE KILLINGS were reported in Kosovo yesterday as Robin Cook, Foreign Secretary, and his French counterpart, Hubert Vedrine, prepared to return today to peace negotiations being held near Paris.

The pair, who are co-chairing the talks, aim to throw their personal weight behind a process that is showing ominous signs of settling into diplomatic trench warfare.

Last night, after a second full day of talks behind closed doors at the former royal chateau at Rambouillet, there was no sign of a breakthrough.

The Serbs and the ethnic Albanians were reiterating old demands: Belgrade wants a public statement by the Kosovo Albanians that Yugoslavia's borders will not change; the latter seek a formal ceasefire.

IN BRIEF

Clinton trial enters final stages

THE IMPEACHMENT trial of President Bill Clinton entered its final stage yesterday with the presentation of closing arguments by both sides. The final vote on the President's guilt could be taken on Thursday - a day earlier than expected.

China lifts ban on Disney film

CHINA IS to allow cinemas to show *Mulan*, the Walt Disney film based on an ancient Chinese folk story. Disney over blocked its release last year. It was angry at Disney over its 1997 movie *Kundun* about the life of the Dalai Lama.

Saddam 'wounded by assassins'

IRAQI PRESIDENT Saddam Hussein was hurt during a recent assassination attempt, the United Arab Emirates newspaper, *al-Ittihad*, reported yesterday. There was no further confirmation of the report.

that the decision by Mr Cook and Mr Vedrine to go back to Rambouillet did not signify that the discussions had run into major problems. They predicted that enough progress would be registered by the weekend to justify extending the talks into a second week.

The Cook-Vedrine mission is likely to be followed by a visit by Madeleine Albright, United States Secretary of State, and by a ministerial meeting of the Contact Group of leading powers, to review progress.

No one is pretending that the negotiations will be anything other than fiendishly difficult. With the two sides refusing direct, face-to-face discussions, the international mediators, led by Christopher Hill, the US ambassador to Macedonia, are conducting "proximity talks",

relying positions, demands and concessions between the two delegations.

Having studied draft peace proposals drawn up by mediators, the Serbs and Albanians are now being pressed to consider key issues, including the jurisdictional status of the province for the three years of an "interim agreement" would run, and the procedures for proposed elections of a Kosovo assembly.

Earlier, a Serb official was quoted as describing the proposals for greater Kosovo autonomy as "horrifying".

Beyond that loom problems over the proposed 30,000-strong Nato peacekeeping force for Kosovo. The Serbs are opposed to such an intrusion onto its sovereign territory. But the Albanians want no less than Nato's signature on a peace deal.

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Sharif fights to strangle free speech

NIGHT AFTER night on the streets of Karachi, Lahore and Rawalpindi, men armed with sticks and iron bars fight for the freedom of Pakistan's press.

The prize: 200 rolls of newsprint, enough to bring out skeletal editions of the Jang group's newspapers. The enemy is the police. The Supreme Court granted the papers this minimal daily ration of paper but the police, acting on orders, try to seize the lorries delivering it and drive them away. On 1 February they succeeded.

It is not too melodramatic to describe this as practically the last stand of those who cherish freedom and democracy in Pakistan. Already the other organs keeping the power of the Prime Minister, Nawaz Sharif, in check have been emasculated: the presidency given to a Sharif family friend, an independent-minded army chief forced to resign. Soon Pakistan's legal system will be run according to Sharia law, and Mr Sharif will be free to do as he pleases.

But the battle for the press is not over yet.

Today the drama switches to the Supreme Court, as it begins hearing an action brought against the government by Jang, alleging infringement of the freedom of the press. It is the company's attempt to fight

BY PETER POPHAM
in Delhi
AND ANWAR IQBAL
in Islamabad

the *Richmond and Twickenham Times* - "Exhibition of Traditional Calligraphy", "Police Complain of Working Conditions..."

back against a government campaign to close down the newspapers that has come to a head in the past three weeks.

The head of the government's Accountability Bureau, Senator Saifur Rahman, has given the proprietors of Jang a list of 16 journalists the government wants sacked, and a list of replacements who would be considered acceptable.

But beneath its bland exterior and tireless quest for balance, *The News* has not shrunk from telling the truth about Mr Sharif, his increasingly dictatorial tendencies, and the allegations of financial wrongdoing that have been laid against him.

Mr Rahman insists, "It is not about tax dues. There are laws and courts in Pakistan to deal with the tax evader."

"We have already filed an appeal against the tax notices in the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal, the highest tax court in Pakistan, and we will accept its verdict."

A plausible explanation for the timing of the government's attack is that Jang was backing a satellite television channel, Geo, which is based in Dubai. While Pakistan's newspapers have been free from government control, radio and television remain a government monopoly.

Some believe that it was fear of uncontrolled news reaching the 70 per cent of Pakistanis who are functionally illiterate that spurred the government into trying to close the group down. Jang's profitable newspapers were the capital base for the satellite station's launch.

three journalists as satisfactory replacements.

In Pakistan, where revenue collection is often used as a pretext for attacking enemies of the government, few took the tax charges against Jang seriously, even before the playing of the tape-recording of the meeting.

Mr Rahman insists, "It is not about tax dues. There are laws and courts in Pakistan to deal with the tax evader."

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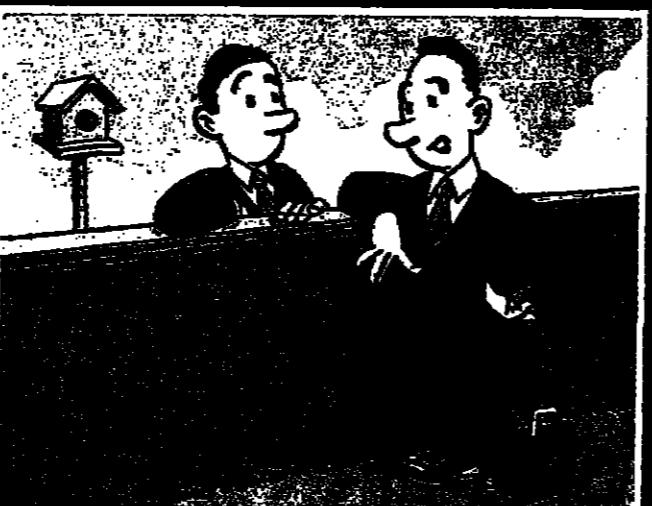


Newspaper editor Maleeha Lodhi (top right), who is at the forefront of the battle against attempts by the Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif (bottom right) to muzzle the press

Reuters

The News does not look like a newspaper which should cause a man as powerful as Mr Sharif to lose much sleep.

The page design is fussy. Headlines are small and bland. Anyone expecting the strident certainties of today's British press would find articles which would not look out of place in



Satisfied customers provide referrals.

If it sounds like common sense, that's because it is. We've all asked friends to recommend restaurants - or a neighbour for the name of a good electrician. It's exactly the same in business. You do a good job for a customer and they pass your name on to their friends and associates. The trick is helping them to remember you. It doesn't have to be

complicated: a card, a letter, just a check to see if everything's still running smoothly - it really is the thought that counts. It certainly beats paying somebody to do your advertising for you. To find out how Royal Mail can help you turn common sense into good business sense, visit us at www.royalmail.co.uk. DO WHAT WORKS.

BUSINESS
RELATIONSHIPS

Royal Mail

جذب العملاء

Horseflesh and flirtation on parade

STREET LIFE

NEW DELHI

THERE IS an elusive night-club crowd in Delhi, conspicuously rich and easily bored, that is rarely glimpsed by daylight. But I caught up with these diamond-studded youths one afternoon at the old Jaipur Polo grounds in Delhi, which turns out to be far less stuffy than you would imagine for a venue located across the road from the Prime Minister's residence and the elite Gymkhana Club.

Horseflesh and flirtation

I'd expected. Thundering

hoofbeats still thrill adolescent girls, and a coterie of suitors follows in their wake.

India's bluebloods are also

out in force. Maharani

in the front rows, kitted out in

Pashmina shawls and Italian

sunglasses, clutch the arms

of their wrinkled rajas. Nearly

all these erstwhile rulers

wear flat wool caps, but the

mixed scents of French

perfume, gentlemen's cologne,

and traditional attar wafting

up from this section is like an

invisible barrier to lesser

mortals. I wonder if the pong

might scare the horses.

"Samsara, yaar," shouts

one teenage boy, trying to

ingratiate himself with a leggy

socialite by identifying her

scant by name. She smiles

nicely, then peers with renewed

interest through her binoculars

while cranking up the volume

on her discman.

Traditional polo is under-

going an image makeover in

India, and some of the

changes are startling. Re-

cently a liquor company

hired American-style pom-

pom girls to cheerlead

between chukkers. Unac-

customed to bare legs in pub-

lic, the Indian crowd roared

approval. The most popular

stunt is putting fashion mod-

els astride nippy stud steeds

- a change from tent-peggng

exhibitions at half-time.

Refreshment tents, which

used to serve only pyramids

of sandwiches from silver

platters, now fog mini-pizzas.

Cellphone companies, pri-

ate television stations, in-

vestment banks and hotel

firms are keen to sponsor

championships or teams -

once the preserve of cavalry

regiments or royalty.

Today's competition is

Seagrams versus Chivas

Regal. Disappointingly, in-

stead of port cheerleaders

performing cartwheels, there

is only a squadron of army

bagpipers tuning up in the

stands. The sponsors strive to

be traditional today, although

the jovial crowd punctuates

much of this pretension.

"Down in front, Bunti. You

know nothing about polo,"

teases a young stockbroker

as his friend tries to start a

standing ovation. "We cannot

see through you." Shortly af-

terwards, two players collide

Polo: Starting changes

INTEREST RATES

BOND MARKET

CURRENCIES

OTHER INDICATORS

TOURIST RATES

DOLLAR

YEN

EURO

FRANCFORT

LIBRA

YUAN

YEN

YUAN

Speech



horseflesh
and flirtation
in parade

STREET LIFE



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BRIEFING

Electra wins Incheape auction
SELECTRA FLEMING, the venture capital group at the heart of a £1.2bn takeover bid by its rival 3i, yesterday outbid its predator to win an auction for the shipping division of Incheape, the vehicles distributor. Electra also beat off rival bids from Barclays and Morgan Grenfell, offering £47.5m for Incheape Shipping Services, a group which sells support services to more than 30,000 ships in 46 countries. Incheape began the auction last summer as part of its aim of focusing on its core vehicle distribution business. Electra yesterday said it planned to retain the business for at least five years.

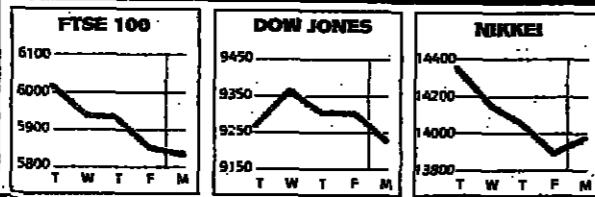
Clementi issues euro warning

THIS DEPUTY governor of the Bank of England yesterday warned the City that there was "no room for complacency" following the launch of the euro. Speaking at a Stock Exchange awards ceremony, David Clementi (left) said that London had got off to a "flying start" in its dealings with the euro, but needed to work at staying competitive. "It is clear to us that London has no automatic right to the huge amount of business that is done here," he said. Mr Clementi was addressing the annual awards for excellence in financial reporting sponsored by the London Stock Exchange and the Institute for Chartered Accountants. Boots, the healthcare group, won the larger company award, while HP Bulmer, the cider maker, scooped the smaller company award.

£12m acquisition boosts Umeco

SHARES OF UMECO, the industrial components distributor, rose 26.5p to 320p yesterday on news of the £12m acquisition of Aerovac, which supplies vacuum bagging materials to the aerospace industry. Clive Snowden, Umeco's chief executive, said the acquisition would strengthen the group's position as a supplier to the European aerospace industry and would immediately enhance earnings.

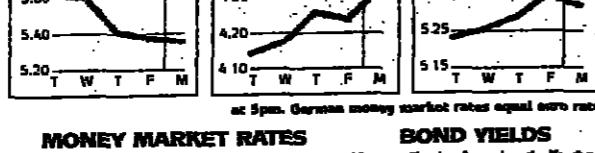
STOCK MARKETS



INDICES

Index	Close	Change	Change (%)	52 wks high	52 wks low	Yr. high	Yr. low
FTSE 100	5834.90	-20.40	-0.35	6195.60	4599.20	2,774	1,971
FTSE 250	5205.40	-6.10	-0.12	5970.90	4247.60	3,181	2,000
FTSE 350	2793.50	-8.70	-0.31	2969.10	2210.40	2,871	1,880
FTSE All Share	2692.85	-7.55	-0.28	2886.52	2143.53	2,875	1,880
FTSE SmallCap	2217.10	7.20	0.33	2793.80	1834.40	3,662	1,880
FTSE Fledgling	2126.70	6.30	0.32	2517.10	1046.20	4,432	1,880
FTSE AIM	856.90	4.70	0.57	1146.90	761.30	1,119	1,119
FTSE Eurotop 100	2741.35	-18.09	-0.58	3079.27	2018.15	2,115	1,971
FTSE Eurotop 300	3197.21	-7.21	-0.22	3392.07	2880.63	2,071	1,971
Dow Jones	9241.94	-67.43	-0.73	9647.96	7400.80	10,662	1,971
Nikkei	13992.49	-94.41	-0.68	17352.35	12873.70	11,042	1,971
Hong Kong	1318.60	-50.60	-3.95	11926.16	5544.79	3,682	1,971
Dax	5227.22	-53.52	-1.05	6277.50	3535.71	7,771	1,971
S&P 500	1235.81	-3.72	-0.30	1288.54	925.33	1,262	1,971
Nasdaq	2356.79	-1.13	-0.04	2353.44	1150.00	2,099	1,971
Toronto 300	6560.20	-54.17	-0.82	6557.70	5140.20	1,511	1,971
British Bourse	8483.53	-40.65	-0.48	12359.14	4575.69	7,450	1,971
Belgium Borse	3444.17	-1.39	-0.03	3443.21	2432.32	3,005	1,971
Amsterdam Ach	528.24	-6.12	-1.15	600.65	365.56	1,065	1,971
France CAC 40	4156.02	-6.72	-0.16	4404.94	2891.21	1,960	1,971
Milan MIB30	33236.00	-616.00	-1.82	39170.00	24175.00	1,233	1,971
Madrid Ibex 35	9646.88	-160.59	-1.64	10986.80	6862.80	1,922	1,971
Iran Omid	5193.28	-18.43	-0.35	5191.70	3723.57	1,554	1,971
S. Korea Comex	0.00	-6.01	-1.09	631.95	277.37	0.07	1,971
Australia ASX	2980.00	-11.93	-0.41	3948.70	2306.70	3,177	1,971

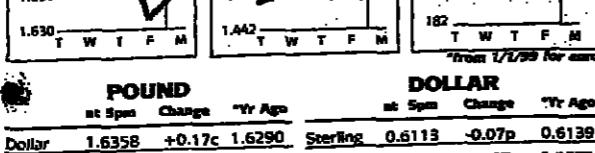
INTEREST RATES



MONEY MARKET RATES



CURRENCIES



OTHER INDICATORS

Close	Chg	Yr Ago	Close	Chg	Yr Ago
Dollar (\$)	1.6358	+0.17	1.6290	0.6113	-0.07
Euro	1.4479	-0.29	1.4079	0.8858	-0.3973
Yen	187.62	+19.64	202.31	114.85	+11.35
E Index	100.60	+0.30	104.40	104.80	+0.50

TOURIST RATES

Australia (\$)	2,4231	Mexican (nuevo peso)	14.98
Austria (Schillings)	19.41	Netherlands (gulders)	3,1112
Belgium (francs)	57.07	New Zealand (\$)	2,8123
Canada (\$)	2,3719	Norway (kroner)	12.27
Cyprus (pounds)	0.8713	Portugal (escudos)	281.87
Denmark (kroner)	10.56	Saudi Arabia (rials)	5,9604
Finland (markka)	8,4244	Singapore (\$)	2,6384
France (francs)	9,2750	South Africa (rands)	9,3723
Germany (marks)	2,7751	Spain (pesetas)	234.91
Greece (drachma)	455.46	Sweden (kroner)	12.59
Hong Kong (\$)	12.29	Switzerland (francs)	2,2659
Ireland (pounds)	1,1111	Taiwan (bahts)	54.42
India (rupees)	62.45	Turkey (liras)	531.680
Israel (shekels)	6,1767	USA (\$)	1,5979
Italy (lira)	2749		
Japan (yen)	182.10		
Malaysia (ringgit)	5,9012		
Malta (lira)	0,6117		

Source: Thomas Cook

Notes for indication purposes only

Source: Thomas Cook

Derek Pain, page 17

Report, page 15

BUSINESS

Industry slump deepens as prices fall for first time

By LEA PATERSON

MANUFACTURING has entered its longest period of sustained decline since the early 1980s, according to official figures out yesterday, reigniting fears of an economy-wide depression.

The latest Office for National Statistics data were far worse than expected and vindicated last week's surprise decision by the Bank of England to cut UK interest rates by 0.5 percentage points.

As well as revealing sharp falls in manufacturing activity, the ONS figures provided further evidence of deflation in the sector.

Manufacturing output prices fell in December for the first time

on record, as weak consumer demand squeezed margins.

John Redwood, the Conservative spokesman for trade and industry, warned that manufacturing was "lurching towards disaster". The Government, however, defended its economic track record, saying it was steering a course of stability through difficult times.

Ken Watret, an economist at Paribas, said: "The official production data is belatedly catching up with business surveys, which have been screaming recession for months now".

Industrial production, which

facturing fell by 0.8 per cent in December. Weakening consumer demand has hit manufacturing prices, with the sector now firmly in the grip of deflation, economists said.

In December producer output prices fell by 0.1 per cent, the first monthly fall since records began in 1958. Manufacturing output prices remained unchanged in January, the ONS said.

Input prices rose in January by 0.5 per cent following a

recovery in crude oil prices.

City analysts warned the weak data were likely to prompt downward revisions to last year's official growth figures, and could mean that growth

turns negative in the first quarter of 1999. Mr Watret said: "It's quite possible we could have negative growth. The manufacturing data tells us that the problems are deep-rooted."

There were encouraging signs elsewhere in the economy yesterday, with two separate surveys providing evidence of a revival of optimism.

The British Retail Consortium survey pointed to a bounceback in retail sales in January, with like-for-like sales up 2.5 per cent as heavy discounting tempted customers back to the shops.

The apparent contradiction between yesterday's upbeat

BRCA survey and last week's gloomy Confederation of British Industry survey could be down to differences in measurement, according to Pam Webber, BRC economist. The CBI survey is based on retail expectations, while the BRC survey measures cash through the till.

Meanwhile, the monthly Merrill Lynch/Gallup survey revealed an upturn in optimism among UK fund managers. One in three expect a stronger economy a year from now, compared with just 3 per cent back in September. Asset allocation is moving away from bonds and cash and back into equities, Merrill Lynch said.

Rebus goes private in £172m takeover

By PETER THAL LARSEN

REBUS, THE computer services group, looked set to disappear into private ownership yesterday, after it agreed to a £172m takeover by two US venture capital groups. Shares in Rebus jumped 18p to 177.5p yesterday as the company confirmed details of the cash bid, pitched at 182p per share.

General Atlantic Partners and Warburg Pincus, the US private equity groups, are funding the offer. Unusually for a venture capital buyout, Rebus' management are not putting up any cash, although they will continue to run the company.

The prospect of a rival bidder entering the fray was all but ruled out yesterday, after Warburg and General Atlantic bought 27.7m Rebus shares, representing 29.96 per cent of its share capital, in the market at a share price of 18

Microsoft and BT form Net force

News Analysis: Bill Gates's giant has joined up with British Telecom to test software which allows Internet access for mobile-phone users

MICROSOFT HAS joined forces with British Telecom to test software which will allow mobile phone users to access the Internet while they are on the move.

The alliance, which was formally announced at an industry conference in New Orleans last night, is the latest in a recent flurry of partnerships between British companies and the United States software giant. It underlines Microsoft's recognition of the UK as a market leader in developing and introducing new technologies.

Microsoft is giving BT the exclusive right to test its microbrowser software, which allows users to browse the Internet from mobile phones and other portable electronic devices, outside the United States. Trials are expected to begin almost immediately, and BT is likely to start offering the software to major corporate customers through its Concert venture next year.

BT has investments in a handful of mobile networks around Europe and in the Far East, allowing it to reach a large number of international customers.

The alliance reflects a growing belief that mobile phone networks will be used by workers to access their company's computer networks and the Internet. "We think the mobile phone will become more than a device for voice communications," says Sohail Quid, BT's director of mobile strategy. "The convergence between Internet and mobile will happen."

Although Microsoft has a stranglehold on the desktop computer market through its Windows operating system, the company is increasingly concerned about the challenge to its dominance from rival devices such as mobile phones, hand-

held computers and television set-top boxes.

"Microsoft is committed to deploying Internet standards-based services, and, by working with partners, to provide a worldwide, end-to-end wireless solution," said Microsoft vice-president Paul Maritz.

Microsoft has developed a stripped-down version of Windows, called Windows CE, to run on these devices, but other companies have been quicker to take the lead in those markets.

Just as Netscape established an early lead over Microsoft in developing an Internet browser, so NCI - a joint venture between Netscape and Oracle - has raced ahead in providing operating systems for television set-top boxes. All three of Britain's cable operators have signed up NCI for their digital television systems.

Meanwhile Psion, the British handheld computer maker, has already linked up with mobile phone manufacturers Motorola, Ericsson and Nokia to develop an operating system for mobile Internet access. Indeed yesterday's announcement, which is a direct challenge to Symbian, knocked Psion shares 52.5p to 87.5p.

According to industry analysts, the creation of Symbian left Microsoft with little choice but to court telecom operators with its software, although they added that ultimately consumers would decide which operating system they preferred.

The alliance with BT marks the latest in a number of ventures between Microsoft and British companies. Even as Microsoft has been battling against an antitrust lawsuit in the US, it has been pouring cash into a number of strategic investments which suggest the



Bill Gates (left), head of Microsoft, and Sir Peter Bonfield, chief executive of British Telecom: the two companies are joining forces in a venture which gives BT exclusive rights to test the computer giant's microbrowser software



UK is more important as a market than is justified by its size relative to other countries.

Two weeks ago, Microsoft invested \$500m in NTL, the country's third-largest cable operator. Last year Computercenter and ICL, the computer services groups, both signed strategic partnerships to develop software and services based on Microsoft's operating system.

Meanwhile WebTV, the Microsoft subsidiary which has developed an operating system for television set-top boxes, is currently trialing its system in a number of London homes in conjunction with BT and the BBC.

Microsoft is also sinking

250m into a research centre in Cambridge, and has contributed £10m to Amadeus, a fund for budding hi-tech companies run by Hermann Hauser, the venture capitalist.

Andrew Lees, a director of Microsoft UK, said the British market is attractive because it is innovative. He pointed to the deregulation of the telecom and media industries which had put British companies at the cutting edge of developments in their technologies.

For example, Britain was one of the first countries in the world to launch digital television. And if the UK government sticks to its self-appointed schedule, Britain will also be the one of the first to introduce the new generation of mobile phone networks which are capable of carrying data at high speed.

However, BT and Microsoft yesterday played down suggestions that the two might mount a joint bid for one of the licences.

Although BT is keen to bid - probably through Cellnet, the mobile phone operator in which it holds a 60 per cent stake - Microsoft said it was not particularly keen to put cash into mobile phone infrastructure.

Bill Gates, head of Microsoft, has also publicly backed Tony Blair's call to create a National Grid for Learning by linking all the schools in the country to the Internet.

By getting involved in these technologies in the UK, Mi-

crosoft is putting itself in a prime position to benefit when they are adopted elsewhere. "This competition is going to create a lot of innovation which will spread around the globe," says Andrew Lees, a director of Microsoft's UK subsidiary.

Critics suggest that Microsoft is stifling innovation by buying into a variety of different companies. However, Mr Lees insists Microsoft's strategy of partnership is designed to create the opposite. "Our business model is to create value and innovation in a solution of which we are part," he says.

Industry analysts point out that Microsoft is effectively using its financial muscle to make sure it is involved in any

development that could be a threat to its existing business in the future. "They are backing a number of horses which is exactly what one would expect them to do," says Richard Holt, a leading industry analyst.

"But then they can afford to back a few losers."

This is hardly new for Microsoft. "Everybody makes Microsoft out to be big innovators," Mr Holtway adds. "In fact they are great marketers who have been particularly good at spotting other people's advantage."

What is different this time around is the scale of the investments that Microsoft can afford to take in its attempts to make sure it knows which way the markets are heading.

Zeneca to sue US drug monitor

By FRANCESCO GUERRERA

ZENECA, THE pharmaceutical giant, is taking the US drug watchdog to court over the approval of a rival version of one of its best-selling medicines, it emerged yesterday.

The British company took the highly unusual step of suing the US Food and Drug Administration over its decision to allow Gensia Sicor, a small American firm, to produce a cheaper version of its anaesthetic Diprivan.

In a lawsuit filed in the US state of Maryland, Zeneca alleged that the FDA breached an exclusively agreement and demanded a withdrawal of Gensia's licence.

The little-known US company last month won approval to produce a medicine which uses Diprivan's key ingredient in combination with other substances not contained in the Zeneca product.

The Gensia drug is to be launched later this year and is expected to cost less than Diprivan, an injectable anaesthetic sold to hospitals.

Industry experts believe that it could become a powerful competitor to Diprivan, which last year had sales of \$300m in the US and \$600m worldwide.

However, the UK group, which is completing its multi-billion pound merger with Sweden's Astra, is claiming that the Gensia product breaches a previous agreement with the FDA.

According to Zeneca, the deal gives it exclusive rights over the sale of Diprivan and similar products until June of this year.

The British company is also alleging that Gensia's formulation of the drug could be harmful for patients.

Zeneca said it had applied to intervene in the lawsuit between Zeneca and the FDA and added that it would "vigorously protect" its interests.

Inflation in euroland to fall

By DIANE COYLE
Economics Editor

not whether they are converging upwards or downwards.

The Commission will be monitoring the unpublished data. It is running a "rounding down" campaign to encourage retailers not to exploit confusion caused by the launch of the euro to push through price rises.

The new report, published today by ING Barings, the City investment bank, predicts that as long as the single currency leads to a levelling down of

prices towards the lowest prevailing, it could reduce the inflation rate by 0.25 per cent a year. This would represent a significant fall from today's already low euroland inflation rate of 0.8 per cent.

According to Mark Cliffe, the author of the report: "The potential significance of price convergence is underlined by the sheer scale of the price differentials."

He noted that the European Commission has always seen cheaper prices to consumers as one of the key benefits of monetary union.

Perhaps wisely, she didn't, and instead founded her own retail design consultancy, working for the likes of Tesco and Storehouse.

Now Ms Davies's job is to "bring some coherence" to Birchin's three country houses - Eynsham Hall in Yorkshire, Chewton Place in Oxfordshire and Swinton Castle in Bristol.

Stakis farewell

NO WONDER Sir Reo Stakis, 85, wiped away a tear as he announced the takeover by Ladbrooke. The hotel and casino group he founded in 1946 is set to be swallowed by Ladbrooke's Hilton subsidiary. Suggested new names include "Lakis" and "Stilton".

Sir Reo arrived in Britain from his native Cyprus in 1928, aged just 15, with £50 and two suitcases full of lace.

His big break came in Glasgow in 1952 when he bought his first restaurant. Shortly afterwards he opened his first steakhouse. "This is when the legend that he 'singlehandedly changed Scotland's eating habits' was born."

He went on to open Glasgow's first nightclubs and Scotland's first casino.

But hubris struck in the 1980s - as with so many other entrepreneurs. Sir Reo made his son Andros Stakis chief executive, and the lad embarked on an ambitious expansion into commercial property, pubs, discos and nursing homes.

When the crash came in 1990 Stakis almost went bust. Sir Reo stepped aside as chairman in March 1991 in favour of Sir Lewis Robertson, a company doctor. Sir Lewis's first act was to replace Andros with David Michaels from Hilton, who became his right-hand man. They proceeded to sell off the 1980s acquisitions and Stakis recovered, growing from a value of £70m in 1992 to £1.2bn today.

PEOPLE AND BUSINESS

By JOHN WILLCOCK



Sir Reo still receives a £240,000 pension from Stakis as life president.

As for Sir Reo's changing the eating habits of the Glaswegians, George Westwell, general manager of the London Metropole, explained last October: "He taught them to use a knife and fork."

Call to action

A CITY lawyer who played rugby for Cambridge, championed the boxer Lennox Lewis and represented 250 depositors in BCCI who were owed \$2bn, is setting up on his own.

Bernard Clarke is leaving City law firm Memery Crystal to launch his own practice dealing in commercial litigation and insolvency.

The former rugby Blue who played open side flanker for Cambridge says now is the time to take advantage of huge changes in the way civil law is run in this country.

"Lord Woolf's reforms mean an end to 'trench warfare' in civil litigation," proclaims Mr Clarke.

"There is a sea-change which most solicitors have failed to grasp. Cases will be streamlined and judges will have a role in administering them. The age of litigants exchanging briefs for years and years is over."

Mr Clarke is setting up on a "greenfield site" and is "hiring lots of young lawyers who haven't been ingrained with the past," he says.

His firm, Bernard Clarke & Co, will take advantage of last year's rule changes which allow lawyers to take cases on a conditional fee basis. It will also spearhead litigation cost insurance, an intriguing development which enables litigants to insure against the possible costs of losing their case, even after they have launched the action.

□ E-mail: j.willcock@independent.co.uk

Change to Interest Rates

With effect from the start of business on 9th February 1999 the following Business Cheque, Deposit and Lending rates are applicable to the accounts set out below:

	OLD AER-4%	NEW AER	NEW GROSS %**	NEW NET %***
Business Investment Account - paid monthly				
		30 day notice account		
£250,000+	4.75	4.65	4.23	4.15
£100,000-249,999	4.70	4.60	4.18	4.10
£25,000-99,999	4.44	4.35	3.92	3.85
£10,000-24,999	3.92	3.85	3.40	3.35
£1-9,999	1.00	1.00	0.50	0.40
Premier Interest Account - paid monthly				
		14 day notice account		
£250,000+	4.65	4.55	4.13	4.05
£100,000-249,999	4.44	4.35	3.92	3.85
£25,000-99,999	4.18	4.10	3.66	3.60
£10,000-24,999	3.76	3.70	3.25	3.20
£1-9,999	2.53	2.50	2.02	2.00
Business Call Account - paid monthly				
		3.09	2.58	2.55
£250,000+	2.89	2.85	2.36	2.35
£50,000-249,999	2.53	2.50	2.02	2.00
£10,000-9,999	2.22	2.20	1.71	1.70
£1-9,999	1.97	1.95	1.46	1.45
Practice Call Account - paid quarterly				
		4.11	4.05	3.55
£100,000+	3.96	3.90	3.44	3.40
£25,000-99,999	3.96	3.90	3.29	3.25
£10,000-49,999	3.60	3.55	2.93	2.90
£2,000-9,999	2.68	2.65	2.17	2.15
£1-1,999	0.85	0.85	0.35	0.35
Schools Banking Account - paid quarterly				
		3.85	3.80	3.29
£1+	3.24	3.20	2.63	2.60
Capital Reserve Account - paid quarterly				
		7 day notice account		
£250,000+	4.63	4.55	4.11	4.05
£100,000-249,999	4.42	4.35	3.91	3.85
£50,000-99,999	4.16	4.10	3.65	3.60
£10,000-24,999	3.75	3.70	3.24	3.20
£2,000-9,999	0.75	0.75	0.25	0.20

Stock market fails smaller companies

JUST three short years into life at the head of a publicly quoted company, Peter Presland, chief executive of Rebus Group, an IT company specialising in the insurance sector, has had enough and is selling out to venture capitalists. Rebus is only the latest in a growing number of so-called "public to private" transactions, and as such it is symptomatic of the deep disillusionment many smaller companies have begun to feel with the stock market.

In recent years there has been a growing polarisation in the quoted sector between big and small companies, and between perceived sunset and sunrise sectors. If your company happens to be a small or medium sized enterprise in an out-of-favour sector, then your chances of using the equity markets to fund expansion at a reasonable rate are virtually nil. Plainly it is much worse than this, however. Rebus is in a dangerous sector; IT, but it is also small so it is still being afforded a stock-market rating so low that its advisers can not recommend use of equity to fund growth.

What's the point of being subjected to the disciplines of a publicly quoted company, many managements are asking themselves, if we cannot avail



OUTLOOK

ourselves of the benefits of the capital markets? This sort of question is now being posed with such regularity by smaller companies that it is no longer possible to write these complaints off as the whining of underperforming executives.

Many smaller companies feel themselves trapped in a vicious circle of decline; if they don't achieve a reasonable stock market rating, they don't get access to capital and will forever remain small. So they have to adopt a strategy consistent with generating good short term growth and delivering on budgets set by others - namely the short term earnings forecasts of City analysts. This in turn necessitates a short term investment

strategy within the company, which tends to mean it can never break free of whichever narrow business perspective it is locked into.

In such circumstances, the attractions of venture capital are obvious. Ironically, most buyout capital comes from the very institutions that in their stock market dealings are applying these short termist pressures; there is, however, a small part of each portfolio which is allocated to longer term, more illiquid investment.

As a consequence, there is a certain amount of robbing Peter to pay

Paul going on here. In the past, the big institutions were reluctant to accept venture capital bids on the grounds that any company buying it must be worth more than it is paying. In the last year or two that perception has changed. The underperformance of smaller company shares has made many keen to sell at almost any price, further depressing the value of these companies.

For big institutions with an interest in the venture capital industry, the process is a zero sum game, since they can expect a share of the higher returns these companies might earn as privately owned entities. The venture capitalist also has the

opportunity much more effectively to bring about consolidation and management change than would have been possible in the quoted sector.

Unhappily, this is a process in which the retail investor can rarely participate. All too often small private investors are being forced out at an undervaluation. Later, on the other hand, they are asked to participate in the inflated valuations at which these companies return to the stock market. The capital markets are not meant to work in this discriminatory and unfair manner.

Recession blues

THE TREASURY is doing its best to convey an impression of calm about the economy even as the pundits veer from euphoria about last week's surprisingly big cut in interest rates to panic about the figures yesterday confirming that manufacturing is in recession for the first time since the early 1980s. Knowing in advance that yesterday's news would be bad, the Treasury had indicated to the Sunday newspapers that the Chancellor saw no need yet to reduce his forecast of 1.15 per cent growth.

So who's right about what's hap-

pening in the economy: the optimists or the pessimists? While the economy as a whole has slowed down, the chances are that it will still avoid outright recession. Thanks to lower interest rates, last quarter and this are about as bad as it should get, barring a catastrophe in the US or elsewhere. Two quarters of GDP growth around zero certainly count as a soft landing even if poor old manufacturing industry fares much worse.

On the other hand, the forecast contained in November's pre-Budget report, based on data for September and October, is at the most optimistic end of the range. The economy would have to turn on a steeper slope in April for it to come true. While Mr Brown may be a cheerful and upbeat fellow, he has no business basing his Budget on extreme optimism.

On the other hand, the last thing the Chancellor needs in the run up to a Budget that will confirm his determination to set a steady fiscal course is the demand from his colleagues to Do Something about a non-existent recession.

The signs are that the Bank of England will manage to keep it at bay for him. Indeed, the latest grim news from manufacturing could point to a

bigger and faster fall in interest rates than most analysts expect. And if that does the trick, the economy could be starting to build up steam by the time the Chancellor is drawing up next year's Budget.

Longbridge aid

IT WAS the turn of Stephen Byers yesterday to make the pilgrimage to Longbridge. These days Trade and Industry Secretaries seem regularly go there to pray for salvation.

Before his sudden fall from grace, Peter Mandelson made the trip up the M1 to beseech the Rover workforce to "sharpen up their act". His successor was there yesterday on a "fact finding" mission.

If there was one fact Mr Byers must already have known it is the statistic that showing Longbridge produces 33 cars per man each year compared with 98 at Nissan's Sunderland factory. Even with their better paid workers and expensive labour laws BMW's German plants are 30 per cent more efficient.

The new man in the BMW hot seat, Joachim Milberg, has given himself a fortnight to digest the information and decide whether to throw

good money after bad and invest another £1bn in a replacement for the Rover 200/400 series.

Mr Byers has £300m of taxpayers' money in his pocket to help Mr Milberg make up his mind. In a sane world, all state aid for car plants would be outlawed on the grounds that it distorts competition and encourages uneconomic production.

But sanity is not always the strong suit of governments. There are plenty of other countries that would be a good deal more generous than Mr Byers in attempting to attract the investment for the 200/400 series.

Moreover, state aid can sometimes be a necessary pump primer. Nissan's Sunderland plant was a big recipient while the renaissance at Jaguar would not have been possible had central government not oiled the wheels. The clincher for both Nissan and Jaguar, however, is that they both had new models that people were eager to buy. Whether the same can be said about Rover is less certain. Given its track record with passenger cars and its surplus of capacity to output, the onus do not look good for Longbridge, no matter how much state aid is waved in BMW's direction.

Scotia sells 'wonderfood' to US

SCOTIA HOLDINGS, the loss-making Scots pharmaceuticals group, yesterday gave hope to millions of food junkies with the sale of a revolutionary anti-appetite ingredient to the US cereal giant General Mills.

The American company bought the worldwide rights to use Olibra - a substance that makes people feel full after a few spoonfuls - in its breakfast cereals, which include the best-selling Cheerios and Kix. Gen-

Mills will also be allowed to sell Olibra-enhanced yogurt, soups and salad dressings in North and South America.

News of the deal with the US company, the world's largest producer of cereals, sent shares in Scotia soaring

BY FRANCESCO GUERRERA

The stock - which has slumped in recent times as Scotia was hit by drug setbacks and boardroom rows - closed 42 per cent higher at 98.5p. Analysts said the tie-up with General Mills, which has

yearly sales of \$7bn and a market value of \$13bn, was a vote of confidence in the product. "It's a good deal, the choice of General Mills is a good endorsement of Olibra and it is in the American market, which is by far the largest in the world," said Nick Woolf, the vice-president of BancBoston Robertson Stephens, the US financial house.

Olibra is a fat-based ingre-

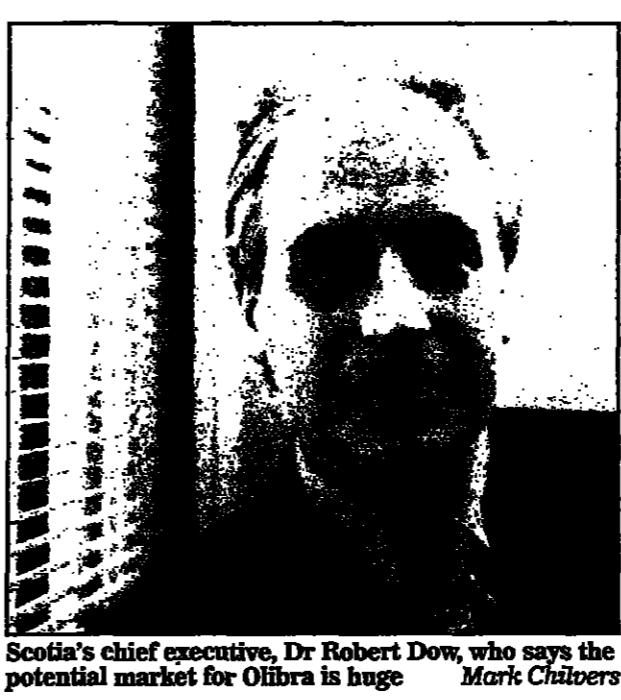
dient derived from palm and oat oil which appears to reduce appetite, helping people to lose weight. It is already used in the Swedish yoghurt Maval, sold in some UK supermarkets, and in some St Ivel desserts produced by the dairy group Unigate.

Scotia declined to spell out the financial terms of the deal, but it is understood that General Mills will pay the Stirling-based group a number of milestone payments during product developments and a royalty of around 3 per cent on sales of Olibra products. The US group will also pay for the development and marketing of Olibra food. The first products are not expected to hit the market before 2001, as Oli-

bra will have to be approved by the US regulatory authorities.

Dr Robert Dow, the chief executive of Scotia, said that the potential market for appetite suppressants was immense. He added that Olibra could be used in virtually every solid food, soup and milk-based drink. The worldwide market for cereals, soups and salad dressings was over \$74bn last year, with almost \$20bn spent in the US alone.

Dow said the General Mills deal would help Scotia to move into profit over the next five years. He added that the deal should help the group to speed up manufacturing agreements with Asian and European partners.



Scotia's chief executive, Dr Robert Dow, who says the potential market for Olibra is huge. *Mark Chivers*

Foreign cash flies out of Malaysia

THE MALAYSIAN central bank was forced to set up a telephone hotline yesterday to deal with the rush of foreign investors trying to withdraw their funds, writes Diane Coyle.

The move followed Malaysia's recent lifting of a six-month ban on capital flows, to be replaced next week by a tax of up to 30 per cent on funds moved out of the country.

The flight of newly released money sent Malaysian shares tumbling 5.85 per cent in heavy trading. The fall dragged other stockmarkets in Asia lower too, with falls in Seoul, Bangkok, Jakarta and Hong Kong.

The switch from overt capi-

tal controls to a tax on movements of funds out of the country of up to 30 per cent - less on longer-term investments - was intended to encourage foreign investment, but backfired as those trapped by earlier restrictions made for the exit.

Although the recurrent financial crises of the past two years had persuaded a number of prominent economists that capital controls could be a useful policy in emerging markets, Malaysia was the only affected country to try them.

Its experience has now confirmed the view that any restrictions simply discourage foreign investment.

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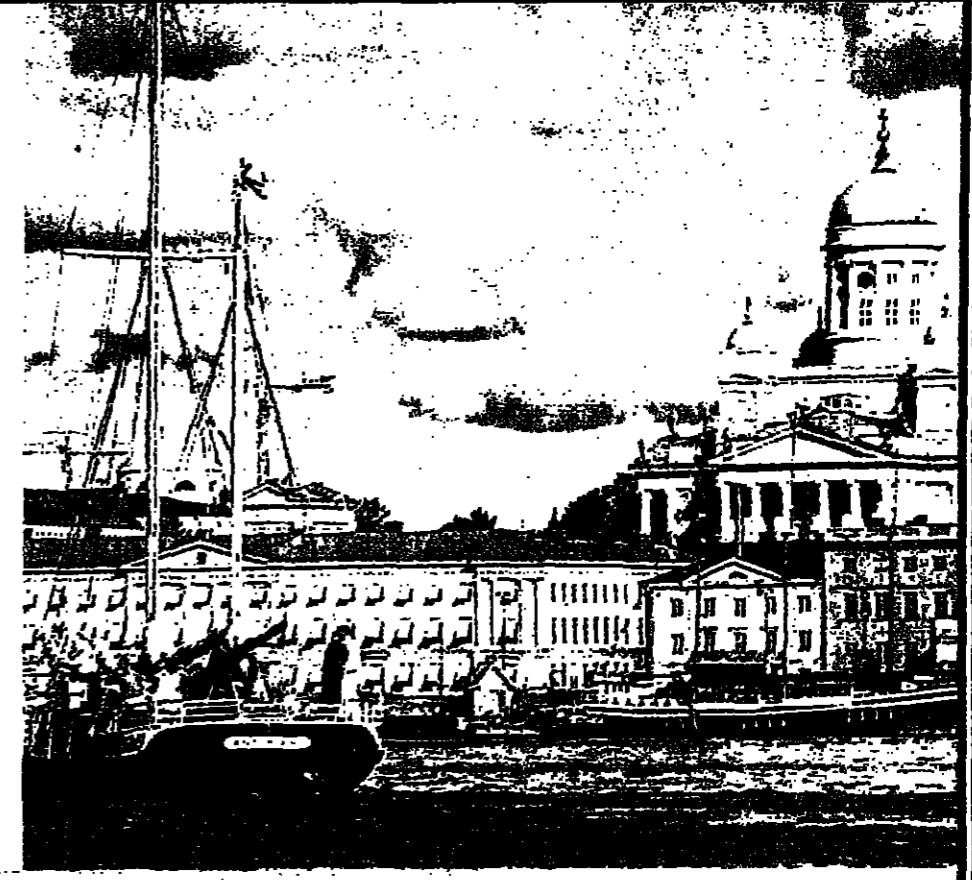
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Lasmo shares rise as oil predators circle

LASMO, the oil group edging up to Enterprise Oil, may be in the sights of a Continental predator.

The shares flared 14p (after 20.5p) to 118.5p in busy trading as stories swirled that Repsol, the Spanish oil group, and ENI, the Italian operator, could be planning takeover shots. EG, the old British Gas, was another in the frame.

ENI refused to comment about Lasmo although it did deny weekend reports it was set to descend on Enterprise, up 10.25p to 234.5p.

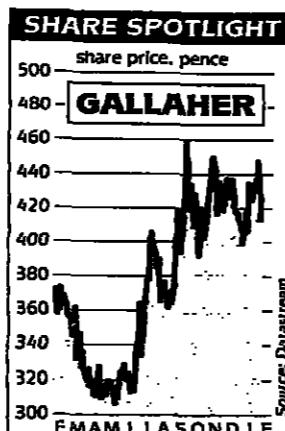
Last month Enterprise and Lasmo admitted they were talking merger; they also said they were in discussions with other parties. There were suggestions in some quarters that the merger negotiations were near to breaking down but sources said they were on the verge of being successfully concluded.

The slump in the crude oil price has devastated the in-

MARKET REPORT



DEREK PAIN



YET ANOTHER share index is likely to appear, possibly in the fullness of time challenging the dominance of Footsie. The creation of oil goliath BP Amoco and the growing integration of world stock markets has prompted thoughts that there is a need for an index covering the mega, multi-national groups. BP Amoco, Footsie's biggest constituent, has a value of £87bn with its shares held fairly equally between British and United States investors.

Industry, it was a major influence in British Petroleum's merger with Amoco, creating Britain's biggest company, representing 6 per cent of the Footsie index. Shares of Enterprise and Lasmo have crashed. Eighteen months ago Enterprise was riding at 72.5p; last year Lasmo almost reached 300p.

Four years ago Lasmo, after a furious takeover battle, managed to resist a bid from Enterprise which was left with oil all over its corporate face. Lasmo is not thought to be over-keen on surrendering its hard-won independence to Enterprise so soon after its

famous victory. It is felt if another company shows sufficient interest, it would be anxious to talk.

The stock market had another busy, if lacklustre, session with turnover again topping 1 billion shares. Footsie sadly lacked inspiration, ending 20.4 points lower at 5,834.9. Even the mid cap index faltered but the small cap again kept the flag flying with a 7.2 advance to 2,217.1.

Bids and deals again contributed to the proceedings. Ladbroke galloped 38p to 268p in response to its agreed cash and shares take over of Stakis, the casino and hotel chain. Stakis, on hopes of a counter bid, rose 16p to 157p.

The deal filtered through to bewhiskered old bid favourite First Leisure, up 10p at 218.5p, but Northern Leisure, strong last week on speculative talk, fell 11p to 137.5p.

BT's Internet deal with Microsoft lifted the teleco group, said to be about to strike at a Dutch telephone company called Equant, 7.5p to 93.5p. Renewed talk that ScottishPower planned to de-

Banks were weak ahead of their profits season with Na-

merge its telecom side pushed the shares 7p higher at 607.0p.

Sum Life & Provincial fell again - 9p to 118.5p in busy trading as stories swirled that Repsol, the Spanish oil group, and ENI, the Italian operator, could be planning takeover shots. EG, the old British Gas, was another in the frame.

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The slump in the crude oil price has devastated the in-

tional Westminster off 30p to 1,144p. But utilities returned to favour with investors encouraged by their safe haven status and dividend yields. Thames Water splashed 42p higher at 1,099p. Mining shares also came in from the cold. Billiton rose 11p to 126p and Rio Tinto 39p to 790p. Lonrho gained 10p to 355p. Deutsche Bank upped Rio to out-perform claiming that high quality miners are coming back into vogue. Firm metal prices were another influence.

Scotia rose 29p (after 37p) to 98.5p following the after clinching of a deal with US food giant General Mills to sell its O'Brien weight control product; the shares were once 800p.

Comipo, a computer group, logged a 22.5p gain to 225p after Peel Hunt suggested a 280p target and forecast profits of £2.7m (£2m) for the year ending next month.

Hornby, the toy-maker, held at 163.5p after Hill Samuel sold

SHIELD DIAGNOSTIC

shaded 10p to 460p. There are worries that its proposed merger with Axis Biochemicals is running into difficulties. But the group said it was still talking to the Norwegian group and a merger agreement should be struck later this month.

As part of the tie-up, Shield is likely to have to raise up to £12m, probably through a rights issue. The shares hit 550p when the deal was announced last month.

990,000 shares, representing 1.8 per cent of the capital. It is left with 1.9 per cent.

NSB Retail, offering computerised retail systems, rose 27.5p to 262.5p after Teather & Greenwood suggested profits reached £1.6m last year; will hit £2.9m this and £5.1m next. On the Ofex market, Easy-Screen, providing dealing systems for futures and options markets, had another rip-roaring session, up 145p. Shares were floated last month at 167p.

SEAO VOLUME: 1 billion

SEAO TRADES: 76,010

GIIT INDEX: 115.43 -0.43

INVESTMENT

Safeway figures bring cheer to supermarkets

BY NIGEL COPE
Associate City Editor

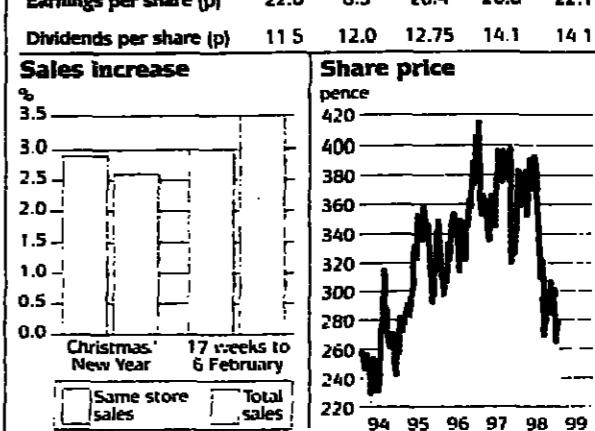
SAFeway yesterday provided some upbeat news for the supermarket sector with a solid Christmas trading update which showed the company had escaped the squeeze on sales which has affected Sainsbury's.

Safeway's sales in the six weeks over the Christmas and New Year period were up by 2.9 per cent on an underlying basis, stripping out petrol sales. Though this is behind the 4.1 per cent sales rise reported by Tesco last month, it is well ahead of the 1.2 per cent gain announced by Sainsbury's in its disastrous trading statement last Friday.

Safeway's margins have been slightly affected by an increase in promotional activity on its best-selling lines as well as a mini price war on specific products such as eggs, milk and now bread.

The company's shares edged 2p lower to 276.5p on the news after an initial rise suggested relief that the figures contained no unwelcome surprises. Colin Smith, chief executive, who has issued several warnings on profits in the past year or so, said the figures reflected the company's attempts to improve product availability and value after last year's problems. He also claimed Safeway has outperformed the industry sales average for the past nine months, though analysts said this had only been achieved by investing heavily in the gross margin.

SAFeway: AT A GLANCE				
Market value: £3.1bn, share price 276.5p (-2p)				
Trading record	94	95	96	97
Turnover (£m)	5.6	5.8	6.1	6.6
Pre-tax profits (£m)	361.8	175.6	429.4	420.6
Earnings per share (p)	22.6	8.3	26.4	26.8
Dividends per share (p)	11.5	12.0	12.75	14.1



are well off their peak in the summer and over the past year have underperformed the All Share by 28 per cent. Market share has been more or less maintained at around 9.5 per cent but Safeway has not made up ground even on third placed Asda, let alone on the market leaders.

Management will brief analysts later this month on Safeway's brand positioning. The company has made much in the past of its focus on targeting higher-spending younger families. But this is hardly unique and Safeway's claim to be more family-friendly is only backed up by services such as creches in a small proportion of stores.

The board is soon to be strengthened with the appointment of a new retail director. This may help improve focus but the fact is that Tesco's increasing grip on this sector means rivals are having to compete ferociously just to stand still.

On full-year profit forecasts of £550m, the shares trade on a forward multiple of 12. This is cheap for a supposedly defensive play but as one analyst puts it, given the increasing competition, "the shares are only likely to tread water".

A glance at Safeway's share price tells the story. The shares

Profits rise at PizzaExpress

PIZZAEXPRESS yesterday pledged to continue its aggressive restaurant opening programme, despite seeing a sharp slowdown in sales in the first half of the year.

The company, which brought thin-crust pizzas to the masses, plans to add at least 15 outlets over the next six months, in addition to the 16 eateries opened in the first part of the year. The openings will bring the total number of restaurants in the UK and Ireland to over 200, compared with just 65 five years ago. "In 1985, the most distant PizzaExpress from London was Bristol. In 1999 our pizza will be enjoyed in restaurants from Aberdeen to Plymouth," the chairman David Page said.

His comments came as the company reported a 40 per cent rise in interim pretax profit to £1.2m. The rise came

BY FRANCESCO GUERRERA

despite a slump in sales growth. Like-for-like sales increased by 3 per cent, down from around 10 per cent last year, as the difficult economic conditions kept customers away from the restaurants. The company's Pasta di Milano and the recently-acquired Cafe Pasta outlets were also disappointing and failed to contribute to profits.

The chief executive, Ian Eldridge, said he was not worried by the gloomy economic outlook. "I don't see any worsening of underlying demand. There is still money in people's accounts, even though customers are a bit more careful these days." Mr Eldridge maintained that the economic downturn had pushed rents down, helping the company to reduce costs and boost margins.



David Page: Expansion plans continue apace

sive offerings," one observer said. According to Ian Berry, a broker at Besson Gregory, PizzaExpress shares, which fell 7.5p to 74.5p yesterday, are a "buy".

He said the stock, on 23 times 1999 earnings forecasts of around £29m, should be boosted by PizzaExpress's good short term growth prospects. "The company is going to grow because they have a good track record, a simple formula and very strong cash flow thanks to good margins."

A large slice of future growth will come from abroad, as PizzaExpress plans exporting its successful formula overseas in an effort to move away from the saturated UK pizza market.

The company has outlets in a number of overseas countries – including Egypt, Cyprus and India – and wants to have over 100 restaurants outside Britain within four years.

IN BRIEF

B&B letter plea to members

BRADFORD & BINGLEY said it was sending letters to all 2.5 million of its members urging them to reject a resolution calling for the building society to become a bank. Lindsay Mackinlay, chairman, and Christopher Rodriguez, chief executive, want members to vote against the resolution at the society's AGM on 26 April.

Unilever sale

UNILEVER yesterday said it had agreed to sell a German salads and dressings business with sales of £175m to Glade Investment Management, a Dutch global investment fund. A division of Fritz Homann Lebensmittelwerte, the business was sold for an undisclosed sum as part of Unilever's drive to focus on its core activities.

Sweet price

HILLSDOWN HOLDINGS has sold its Continental Bakeries division to Industri Kapital, a European private equity fund, for £42m. Continental, which saw profits of 7.2m euros (£4.9m) in 1997, sells biscuits in the Netherlands, Germany and Belgium and is known for its Pirou chocolate wafers.

Roadshow stake
WPP GROUP, the world's second biggest advertising company, has taken a 49 per cent stake in International Presentations Ltd (IPL), which had revenues of £7.8m last year, specialises in roadshows for governments and companies wanting help with private equity offerings.

£55m for Vickers
VICKERS, the engineering group, yesterday predicted profits for 1998 before tax and exceptionalities would come in at £55.6m, slightly above expectations. The group plans to recommend an unchanged final dividend at 4.5p; shares ended up 1.5p at 149.5p.

Liffe financial futures

Contract	Settlement	High	Low	Est. floor	Open interest
Long Gilt	118.30	118.72	117.90	118.00	101,214,000
Yr Gilt	110.16	110.50	109.80	110.00	63,000
Corporate Bond	115.00	115.30	114.70	115.00	10,000
Italian Bond	110.90	111.83	111.40	111.80	44,706,000
Japan Govt Bd	128.20	128.45	128.00	128.20	10,000
Mar '98	94.64	94.65	94.50	94.60	280,000
3 Mth Sterling	96.94	96.95	96.80	96.80	10,000
3 Mth Eurobor	96.94	96.95	96.80	96.80	10,000
3 Mth Euroyen	99.42	99.43	99.20	99.20	10,000
3 Mth Euroswe	99.40	99.41	99.20	99.20	10,000
3 Mth Euro Libor	96.89	96.90	96.75	96.75	10,000
FTSE 100	97.00	97.00	96.85	96.85	10,000

INDUSTRIAL METALS

LME (S/tonne)	Cash	Chg	3 month	Chg	LMEstd	Chg

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CERRUTI IMAGE
THE NEW FRAGRANCE FOR MEN

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1860. 1861.

SPORT

Racing: Trainer's pursuit of perfection and attention to detail can add to the legend of Ballydoyle



Aidan O'Brien with Istabraq in the yard at Ballydoyle yesterday. O'Brien says his seven-year-old 'can cruise at 40mph on the bridle doing a half speed. That's unbelievable' Caroline Norris

O'Brien masters mysterious art

BY RICHARD EDMONDSON
in Ballydoyle

available than you're in bother," O'Brien himself concedes.

Horses are great commodities in this corner of Ireland. John Magnier, Ballydoyle's owner, is the glue between the generations. He is Dr Vincent O'Brien's son-in-law and the figure who liberated Aidan O'Brien from the world of jumping. He is also the leading man at the neighbouring Coolmore Stud, and the fuel for

"He's like the doctor in many ways. Both of them are very dedicated. You have to be here. They've got very little to say. They're both quiet, laid-back men. You always get the impression that they're always thinking, always one step ahead of you. They've no time to be chattering. Aidan can achieve great things. What he's done already is remarkable. All he needs is the horses."

O'Brien will get the horses, the raw material, and he will be expected to show the ability of a diamond cutter, polishing and shaping the valuable goods brought to him. Reward and pressure will come in similar amount.

It is a package which makes Aidan O'Brien a particularly nervous character at the racecourse. His reticence in front of a television camera is such that it appears he may be the only trainer to have undertaken counter-interrogation training with Mossad in the Negev desert. If he ever gets a particularly difficult question he may ease a cyanide capsule out of his cuff and end it all. It is a lot to ask of a naturally shy personality, one which is just 39 years old.

There is, however, another Aidan O'Brien and it came out in the rain at Ballydoyle yesterday. At home, and with his horses, there is a chance to relax. The 100 Flat horses, 60 of them two-year-olds, which

he will be nurturing this year were well away in the main complex. We were in Margot's yard, one of Vincent's overspill areas, where the few National Hunt horses which O'Brien now trains are housed.

There are just six but they are no afterthoughts. Five of them will participate at the Cheltenham Festival next month and four are expected to win. Le Coudray, the animal recently purchased for a reputed £250,000 by the celebrated punter J P McManus, heads for the Stayers' Hurdle. Give it Holy contests the bumper and Darapour has a choice of handicap hurdles.

Poor Theatrewold, the runner-up in the last two Smurfit Champion Hurdles, is the one not expected to triumph. And that is because his box neighbour is the reigning champion Istabraq, a horse of enormous talent.

The seven-year-old has saved the family name round these parts. His three-quarter brother Secreto became a viper in this garden of Eden by beating Ballydoyle's El Gran Senor in the 1984 Derby. Istabraq's talents lie in a different field but are no less towering. He collected last year's Champion by a record 12 lengths and, worryingly for others, looks an even more potent competitor this year.

O'Brien himself has been struck by the change in the beast. "Physically he's a stronger horse," he

says. "He's grown and matured. He's gone real round and strong, like a sprinter."

"We haven't worked him for his races this year and he's had it easy in his races. He's gone very slick at his hurdles and he's the star who oozes class. He's getting quicker and quicker all the time."

The final remark is not conjecture. "He can cruise at 40mph on the bridle doing a half speed," the trainer says. "That's unbelievable." O'Brien does not arrive at this speed

Making stallions is what it's all about. To keep a big place like this paying for itself you have to make a stallion a year'

by guesswork. It is what the needle tells him as a jeep shadows Istabraq along one of Ballydoyle's all-weather gallops.

Istabraq's record of 14 wins from 16 over jumps suggests he is an athlete of some resolve. The reality, though, is that he has a fragile psyche and each day has to be the same or his temperament will fold.

"All the horses that are going there look like they have chances," he says. "There's still a big buzz." Aidan O'Brien will have that surrounding him for the rest of his Ballydoyle life.

Henry wants line-out clarified

RUGBY UNION

BY WYN GRIFFITHS

GRAHAM HENRY, the Wales coach, will fly to Dublin on Thursday to meet Steve Griffiths, the International Rugby Board referees' development officer.

Henry was disappointed with the way the English referee Ed Morrison handled the line-out during Wales' defeat to Scotland in the Five Nations' match at Murrayfield on Saturday. Morrison clamped down on the Welsh tactic of arriving late at the line-out in order to secure quick ball. He called them in to the line-out repeatedly, negating a tactic which had previously brought success.

"We didn't have any problems with the Australian and Irish referee in the last two Tests, but Ed Morrison kept calling the guys in," Henry said. "It made it shambolic and increased the indecision."

Roger Pickering, the Five Nations Committee chief executive, has written to tournament sponsors Lloyds TSB complaining about the on-pitch logo in Dublin which caked Ireland and France players in dye.

The blue and red dye was not permanently adhesive to the turf, and Ireland's green shirts were soon multi-coloured. France, wearing blue, had red stains disfiguring them.

"It was unacceptable, and I have told the sponsors that they must explore the technical side of this to ensure it does not happen again," Pickering said.

The Lloyds TSB sponsorship manager, Mark Harper, responded by saying: "I'm not aware of any complaints. I had dinner with the Irish officials on Saturday night and they all thought it looked great."

The problem occurred when it started raining just after the logo had been completed, not allowing sufficient time for it to dry. "If it had been a muddy pitch the players would have got brown on their shirts instead of blue," Harper said. "It hasn't affected the score or made any real difference."

The New Zealand hooker Norm Hewitt broke down in tears yesterday and admitted he had an alcohol problem. Hewitt, who is captain of the Wellington Hurricanes Super 12 side, publicly apologised for his drunken behaviour in Queenstown early on Saturday morning when he severely gashed his arm after falling through the glass door of a house. Hewitt, in Queenstown for a pre-season warm-up against Otago, apparently mistook the house for his team's hotel.

The 30-year-old had not been dropped from either the All Black squad or the Wellington Hurricanes, but David Moffett, the New Zealand Rugby Football Union chief executive, confirmed he has been punished.

Hewitt said he would be seeking help for his drinking problem.

TOMORROW

He is Britain's most successful promoter, but if Frank Warren had his time again he would not work in boxing. Interview by Brian Viner

How Gatland's folly relieved me of my lolly

"OUR NEW Zealanders are better than your New Zealanders." So might a joyful Scotsman have said to a disconsolate Welshman, sobbing gently into his half-pint in an Edinburgh bar on Saturday night. Scotland had a New Zealand full-back, centre and banker, while Wales fasted a full-back and a coach. The Scots might also have added a New Zealand wing had they chosen him.

As we know, rugby supporters do not talk in this way. Nor would it have been a fair reflection on the match. Wales were beaten fair and square in the forwards, Scotland having a quicker back row, which surprised me, and a stronger front five, which did not.

It is possible, though not perhaps profitable, to speculate on what

would have happened if David Young and Craig Quinnell had been fit. I thought Wales would win even in their absence, but was insufficiently confident to put any money on the outcome. As I wrote last week, Graham Henry, the Welsh coach, had produced the spine of a side but has some way to go.

Gareth Thomas's presence would not have made any difference either. Dafydd James took his chance well, while Matthew Robinson made several almost-breaks and otherwise did everything that was asked of him except prevent Scotland having a quicker back row, which surprised me, and a stronger front five, which did not.

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profitable, to speculate on what would have happened if David Young and Craig Quinnell had been fit. I thought Wales would win even in their absence, but was insufficiently confident to put any money on the outcome. As I wrote last week, Graham Henry, the Welsh coach, had produced the spine of a side but has some way to go.

It is possible, though not perhaps



ALAN
WATKINS

I think Jim Telfer and his two colleagues would be better advised to retain Armstrong, to fit in another Lion, Alan Tait, somewhere in the back five even if Jamie Mayer returns at centre, and

to leave the kicking duties to Kenny Logan.

Ah, kicking. It brings us to what happened in Dublin. Here I claim some prescience. As Lord Beaverbrook once remarked, if you do not blow your own trumpet no one is going to blow it for you. I suggested that Simon Mason should be picked at full-back for his place-kicking and that Conor O'Shea could be accommodated in the centre with either Ron Henderson or Jonathan Bell as his partner. In default of this arrangement (which, to be honest, I thought unlikely), I assumed Niall Woods would be on the left wing, not only part of London Irish's back three but also taking the place kicks in preference to David Humphreys.

I could not imagine that Warren Gatland, Ireland's New Zealand coach, would do anything else. But, as astonishingly, he did. When he had been putting over goals for Ireland (though Mason would have been even more reliable) Woods was playing for London Irish against Gloucester at Sunbury, scoring a try and kicking a conversion.

It is, admittedly, impossible to say that in Saturday's conditions Mason would have reproduced the faultless performance he gave on the previous Saturday at the same ground. Still, it was extraordinary that he did. So he trotted to the polling station to vote Labour.

Likewise I advise my readers to back France for the Five Nations. I then promptly backed Ireland at 20-1. It seemed a good bet. Indeed, it was a good bet. But despite the talk of Keith Wood and others about the Triple Crown, I do not now expect to see any return on what the bookmakers like to call my investment.

Tiutchev on the rise and out of reach

BY GREG WOOD

TWENTY-TWO runners were declared yesterday for the Tote Gold Trophy at Newbury on Saturday, but it was the identity of one of the scratchings which prompted a serious readjustment of the ante-post odds. When the entries appeared, Pridwell, the top weight, was missing, and so too were the next four names on the list. As a result, the weights rose by 20lb, and Tiutchev is now the strongest favourite for the race since Vicario Di Bray, 10 years ago.

There are two ways of looking at this wholesale makeover for the Tote Gold Trophy which is normally one of the most compelling betting events of the winter. The sponsors, naturally, claim to be happy that all but one of the entries will now be able to race off their correct handicap mark, whereas with Pridwell compressing the weights, a dozen more would have been racing with more than their fair share of weight.

From the punting point of view, however, it is hard to see beyond the 6-4 now offered against Tiutchev by the Tote, which is the sort of price more normally associated with the favourite for the Champion Hurdle. Before Pridwell was cancelled out of the equation, Tiutchev would have been forced to run from 7lb out of the handicap. Now, off his true mark, he appears to be not merely a good thing, but the best thing for months, and unless Stanley Racing know something we do not, the 9-4 they have chalked up against Tiutchev will surely disappear long before the weekend.

The only piece of form many

backers will bother to study is Tiutchev's success in the Lanzarote Hurdle last month. He won, with plenty to spare, by six lengths, yet he will compete for a lower mark on Saturday. Until yesterday, he was shoulder-to-shoulder with Wahiba Sands, who won the Goffey Fielden Hurdle three months ago, in the ante-post betting. Now, though, Wahiba Sands is out to 6-1 from 4-1, since he must now carry top weight of 12 stone.

Normally, you might expect Martin Pipe, Wahiba Sands' trainer, to be less than delighted at this turn of events, but since he also trains Pridwell, he

RICHARD EDMONDSON
Nap: Space Race
(Lingfield 3.30)
NB: Royal Preview
(Lingfield 4.30)

can hardly complain. The conclusion must be that either he believes that Wahiba Sands is good enough to win anyway, or that one of his three remaining entries, Amfiga, Rainwatch and Venti D'Aout, will do so instead.

The bookmakers are not convinced, however, and double-figure odds are available about all three. The prospects do not look good for those layers who, like the Tote, have had Tiutchev at rates from 16-1.

His take-out with the sponsors alone is £150,000, and their only consolation is the desperate record of favourites in the race. Mysliv is the only market leader to have obliged in the last 10 years, with Vicario Di Bray, who started at odds-on, Edel-

weis Du Moulin and, 12 months ago, Graphic Equaliser among those who have failed.

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'From my experience he will get us very well organised. The team will have to get lots of shots in'

Martyn thankful for Wilkinson

The last Elland Road signing by the England caretaker manager is well aware of his qualities. By Phil Shaw

GOALKEEPERS ARE reputedly a breed apart, and Nigel Martyn can certainly claim that distinction within the England squad for tomorrow's friendly against France. Alone among the players inherited by Howard Wilkinson, he was worked with him at club level – and indeed played a reluctant role in the events that led to his being free to join the Football Association hierarchy.

Two and a half years ago, Martyn was in Leeds United's goal for the 4-0 home defeat by Manchester United that led to Wilkinson's tenure being terminated the following Monday morning. It was an afternoon that began and finished badly for the Cornishman, now 32, who remembers what happened in between with no great fondness either.

He scored an own goal inside three minutes, while in what proved to be the final act of Wilkinson's eight-year reign, he was helpless as Eric Cantona sealed the fate of the man who had taken them both to Elland Road. "Losing to our biggest enemies was probably the last straw," a mud-splattered Martyn reflected after training at Bisham Abbey yesterday.

Now, with that peculiar combination of symmetry and irony which football accepts as commonplace, Cantona's compatriots provide the opposition for Wilkinson's first senior match since he left the Premiership and became technical director at Lancaster Gate. Martyn detected little change in his demeanour, noting that he was still "dry and witty", although he has witnessed a less urban side to his character.

Weeks before Wilkinson's sacking, Martyn made his Leeds debut at Derby. The most expensive British keeper, a £2.25m signing from Crystal Palace, he looked set for a win-



Howard Wilkinson points the way to (from left) Kieron Dyer, David Beckham, Rio Ferdinand, Andy Hinchliffe and Alan Shearer at Bisham yesterday David Ashdown

ning start when his new club led 3-1 with less than a sixth of the match remaining. But it finished 3-3, and the manager was not best pleased.

"I can remember him shouting and banging the table in the dressing room," said Martyn. "He's not a cup-thrower; but he did have a go at people because we made mistakes late on."

Martyn played only five times for Wilkinson, yet he formed a favourable impression of the man-management qualities he might bring to the England job. "I had a choice between Leeds and Everton when I left Palace. Leeds made me feel much more welcome, which was down to Howard

and the chairman at the time [Bill Fotherby]."

In terms of tactics, too, Martyn saw positive attributes. "From my experience he'll get us very well organised. The team will have to work the ball wide, get lots of shots in and generally put the opposition on the defensive."

Martyn had not played internationally for three years before Wilkinson gave him the platform to impress. Glenn Hoddle has since won a further six caps and, though David Seaman is likely to face France, he is probably closer to being England's No 1 than ever before.

"David has come back [into the Arsenal side] from injury

and kept two clean sheets straight away," Martyn said. "I know Howard signed me, but I think track records are important for managers to fall back on when they start a job. All I can do is play well and wait."

England's track record in the European Championship campaign might best be described as patchy. While Wilkinson may or may not be in charge for the remaining qualifying matches, Martyn made it clear the coach viewed tomorrow's game as more than a spectacle to set us for a full house at Wembley.

"He has told us that a good result would get us in the right frame of mind for Poland next month. He hasn't looked beyond

Wednesday night for himself, but he is looking forward for us."

Tony Adams is also closely acquainted with Wilkinson's style – but as an opponent in many attritional struggles between Arsenal and Leeds. "His teams were always very determined, strong, organised and physical," he said. "And he had good players."

Adams was openly critical of Hoddle after last year's World Cup. However, he took no satisfaction in his demise, saying: "There's a sadness when someone loses a job, whatever you feel about the individual."

The experience of a dramatic upheaval at Highbury, where Arsène Wenger

assumed George Graham's former mantle, has taught Adams not to fear change. "I'm very open-minded," he said. "When it happens I just say: 'Right, let's go again.'

"I think it's business as usual with Howard. I'm a professional footballer; I get on the field and do my stuff. And it was great to be out there this morning."

Now was not the time, he suggested, for him to comment on Hoddle's departure. But at least one colleague thought he sensed a fresh spring in the centre-back's step. "Gareth Southgate took the mick out of me," explained Adams. "He said: 'For you to be training, there must a new manager'."



Martyn: Good impression

Goram to act on UVF claim

ANGRY ANDY GORAM yesterday emphasised that he will carry on playing for Scottish Premier League side Motherwell. The former Scotland and Rangers goalkeeper called a news conference in Glasgow after allegations over the weekend linked him to an Ulster terrorist group.

The Scotland international was pictured holding a Ulster Volunteer Force flag in a Sunday newspaper in a dated photograph made public by his wife, Tracy, who is currently divorcing the player.

Goram, who denies being a UVF sympathiser, retired from international football three weeks before the World Cup last summer because of attention on his private life but has since intimated he will reconsider that verdict.

There had been widespread speculation that Goram would quit the game only a month after joining the Fir Park club, but instead he denied the allegations and said he was taking legal action with support from Motherwell.

Goram also added that he was a 100 per cent supporter of the peace movement. "I categorically deny that I have any links with sectarian groups or terrorists," he said. "I do not condone violence and I wholeheartedly support the current peace process in Northern Ireland."

"I deny all the implications in these recent articles and am taking legal action against the newspapers concerned and the individuals who supplied this incorrect information. Because of the current legal situation I am unable to say any more."

Motherwell are giving Goram their full backing, saying he remains a player at the club. A statement, ratified by the owner and chairman, John Boyle, read: "Two newspapers have made serious allegations against Andy Goram. He has been accused of having links with terrorist organisations. Motherwell is a family club and takes these allegations seriously."

"As individuals, and as a club, we take no part in sectarianism. We have spoken to Andy Goram at length. He has assured us that he has been seriously maligned and misrepresented and that he is taking legal action against the newspapers and individuals concerned. He remains a player at Motherwell."

Goram is no stranger to controversy and walked out of Scotland's training camp in America last May after allegations about his private life.

He left Rangers in the summer and had loan spells with Notts County and Sheffield United before training with FC Copenhagen. However, a possible move to Denmark broke down and he returned to Scotland last month after the Premier League's winter break.

Gary Holt, the Kilmarnock midfielder, has withdrawn from the Northern Ireland squad for tonight's B international against Wales at Wrexham after it was discovered he is not eligible.

The player had claimed his father was from County Down, but the Irish Football Association checked and found out that he was referring to his stepfather and that his real parents are Scottish.

The episode is embarrassing for the Irish Football Association, and David Curry, the secretary of the international committee, said: "Gary's parents are Scottish, so he comes under the Scottish FA's jurisdiction."

Holt is not the only absentee from the squad – Damien Johnson, the Blackburn Rovers winger, has pulled out with a knee injury.

Advocaat facing disciplinary action

BY SIMON BUCKLAND

Kanchelskis to have pushed at Dunfermline substitute Colin Nish.

Andy Smith, the Dunfermline captain, put the penalty wide, but Advocaat's broadside at the official continued and after a heated discussion young pointed him out of the dug-out.

The only encouraging aspect for Advocaat is that the championship race could be virtually over by the middle of next month with Rangers so dominant.

Advocaat was still less than satisfied with the overall quality of Rangers' showing at Dunfermline – describing the

game more than their rivals, are 12 points ahead of Kilmarnock and 13 clear of the reigning champions, Celtic, with only one further Old Firm meeting remaining between the Glasgow clubs.

Celtic's problem is that teams who took points of them with relative ease earlier this term are showing few signs of doing the same to Rangers in the campaign's latter stages.

Advocaat was still less than satisfied with the overall quality of Rangers' showing at Dunfermline – describing the

opposition as the sharper side – but paid tribute to Kanchelskis.

He said: "They refused to give us a chance to play football in the first half, but the quality of Rangers is such that we can score at the right time, and all three were excellent goals."

Lorenzo Amoruso, the Rangers captain, is in confident mood because he senses the team are still improving as a unit and he considers they have yet to reach their peak.

He said: "As the season progresses we are becoming stronger in many aspects of our

play, but we are taking nothing for granted at the moment – the manager would not allow us to."

"He made it clear to us how important this trio of away games were, and we have won the lot with the kind of consistency which shows we don't intend to falter at this stage."

Dick Campbell, the Dunfermline manager, gave Rangers a better match than the eventual scoreline suggests and reckons the same approach from his men can steer them to Premier League safety. His mood was cheered by

Andy Tod's decision to snub interest from both sides of the border and agree a new four-year contract.

Campbell said: "There has been interest in him, but that is no surprise because he's a quality player; the test of that being how few matches he has missed in his time here."

"If he completes this next

four years that will be a decade at the club, and I personally hope he will stay another four after that because he is a big player for us and a magnificent ambassador."

No charity from Americans

GERMANY

THREE PLAYERS who earn their living in Germany had good reason to celebrate in this northern Florida city on Saturday evening. Unfortunately for Erich Ribbeck, none of them were in his team.

Ribbeck, who succeeded Berti Vogts as Germany's coach earlier this season, had the look of a haunted man after his experimental team had been thrashed 3-0 by a young American side in the first of two friendlies on this trip. The Germans play Colombia in Miami today.

Glenn Hoddle might have enjoyed watching a German squirm in front of a media interrogation. Ribbeck was asked to explain how his team had found themselves 3-0 down in less than half an hour to a country they had beaten easily at last year's World Cup finals.

"Nervousness spread through the team after we went behind," Ribbeck admitted. "Rather than helping each other, the nervousness became contagious. There was no leadership out there."

That appeared to be a direct criticism of the German captain, Lothar Matthaus, and also of the anonymous Andreas Möller. Perhaps it was

an interested spectator here was Lawrie McMenemy, the Northern Ireland manager, whose side entertain the European champions in a Euro 2000 qualifier next month.

The Germans will be concerned by this result, he said, "because the expectations back home are so high." He feels that Ribbeck will make changes before the Belfast game.

After the senior game, the US Under-23 team lost 1-0 to the German Under-21s. The coach of the US youngsters is Clive Charles, the former West Ham defender, while their goalkeeping coach is Peter Mellor, who played for Fulham

against West Ham in the 1975 FA Cup final.

In the senior game, Cobi Jones, the former Coventry City forward, won his 113th cap for the States. At 28, he has enough years left to surpass the world record of 143 caps held by the Swedish keeper, Thomas Ravelli.

"It would be a great honour if it happens," Jones said, "but I'm not going to put too much weight behind it, because we played so many games between '92 and '94."

Remembering his spell with Coventry, Jones said: "I wish I had had the opportunity to play up front and not out wide. If I have the chance to play in England again, I hope I will be able to tell the coach where I usually play."

There were mitigating circumstances for Ribbeck – his players were rusty because of the Bundesliga winter break and top men like Oliver Bierhoff had not been released by their clubs – but it was still a disastrous result for him.

There was talk yesterday back home that Germany's bid to host the 2006 World Cup might have been placed at risk by a Fifa edict. The world governing body has ordered that the World Cup grounds have a minimum capacity of 40,000.

Germany had been working on the basis of 30,000, the capacity required in last year's finals.

"Our bid is not in any way endangered by the change. It is a

question of which stadiums to choose out of the many that we have," Horst Schmidt, secretary general of the German Football Association, said, however.

For the United States coach, Bruce Arena, Saturday's victory was his first since succeeding Steve Sampson, after 0-0 draws against Bolivia and Australia. He has recalled the goalkeeper Tony Meola, a veteran of the 1990 and '94 World Cups, but he has also brought in some impressive young players. As well as Tony Sanneh, the midfielders Eddie Lewis and Chris Armas and the defenders Robin Fraser and CJ Brown show much promise.

Advocaat has invited Carlo Ancelotti to take over as coach immediately, following the departure of Marcello Lippi in the wake of the 4-2 home defeat by Parma on Sunday. Ancelotti, who had been due to take over at the end of this season, said he would accept. The 39-year-old former Roma and Milan midfielder inherits a Juventus side ninth in Serie A and already out of the Italian Cup.

THE ATTENDANCE record for an England Under-21 international will be broken when Peter Taylor's side take on France at Derby's Pride Park tonight.

More than 30,000 tickets have been bought in advance and the game seems almost certain to be a 33,000 sell-out – even though there is not a single Rams player in the squad to boost local interest.

The turn-out will surpass the previous best for an Under-21 game in November 1994 when 25,863 saw England defeat the Republic of Ireland at St James' Park.

Advocaat is looking for a win against France to end his first season in charge.

He said: "We have to win the game to give us a chance of qualifying for the European Under-21 tournament in 2001."

Advocaat's first game in charge was a 1-0 win over Scotland at Wembley on 12 January.

He said: "I am very pleased with the way the team has started. We have been playing well and I am looking forward to the game against France."

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SPORT



GOUGH BOOST FOR FINALS P20 • NEW MASTER OF BALLYDOYLE P19

International football: Manchester United striker in no mood for contrition before England's meeting with France

Cole ready to make fresh start

GLENN HODDLE may have forgivens Andy Cole in the dying days of his England reign but the Manchester United striker was in no mood to return the gesture as he rejoined the national fold yesterday.

In November Cole had responded to Hoddle's repeated assertion that he wasted too many chances by choosing the front page of *The Sun* to label the former national coach "a coward" for not picking him.

Yesterday he professed neither joy nor sadness at Hoddle's sudden departure but he did say that, in a similar position, he would reach the same way again. Cole said: "I've no regrets. I stick by what I said. I was disappointed, I felt it was getting personal."

"I'm not bitter towards Glenn Hoddle. That was his opinion and everyone is entitled to their opinion, but I would speak out again. People think it is wrong if a player does that but it is freedom of speech."

"I don't say a lot and when I do it is because something hurts me. I don't usually follow the papers but I was going to my nephew's birthday party and the missus [his girlfriend, Shirley] said, 'Can you get a newspaper?' I turned to the back page and there it was."

"When things like that happen the people you take it out on are your family and I had a barney with the missus for a couple of days. When I decided to [do the article] she said 'go ahead and do it'."

"Alex Ferguson did not know about it and he did not say anything afterwards. He looks upon me as a 27-year-old man with a family [he has a three-year-old son, Devante] who can look after himself. Everyone was surprised because it was a bit of an outburst from me. People know I don't speak a lot; my football does the talking."

Cole has made two previous

appearances for England, both as a late substitute. He had 19 minutes against Uruguay at Wembley under Terry Venables in March 1995, and 14 minutes against Italy in Le Tournai under Hoddle in June 1997. He hit the bar when he should have scored against Uruguay, pulled out of the next squad through injury and was never summoned by Venables again. Hoddle was prepared to give him a second chance, against Chile a year ago this Thursday, but he withdrew again, with a thigh injury, on the morning of the game. He figured in the next two squads without playing and was dropped in May.

Since his last international he has scored 43 goals for Manchester United at roughly two every three games. "A lot of it is to do with the team playing so well," Cole said. "I've struck up a very good understanding with Dwight. I spoke to him when he was thinking of coming to United and I was the first person to tell him to come."

"I never thought he would be a threat to me. Every season I am supposed to be leaving and I am still there. I scored 26 goals last season and I was still supposed to be leaving."

"We get on really well, on and off the pitch. We haven't worked on it a lot. When he first came I wasn't in the team. But in training the boys say we never pass to anyone else."

Cole's ambition for the match is to enjoy himself. Long-term it is to keep on learning. He, too, feels he is a much better player than in his Newcastle days and is glad his all-round game is now being recognised.

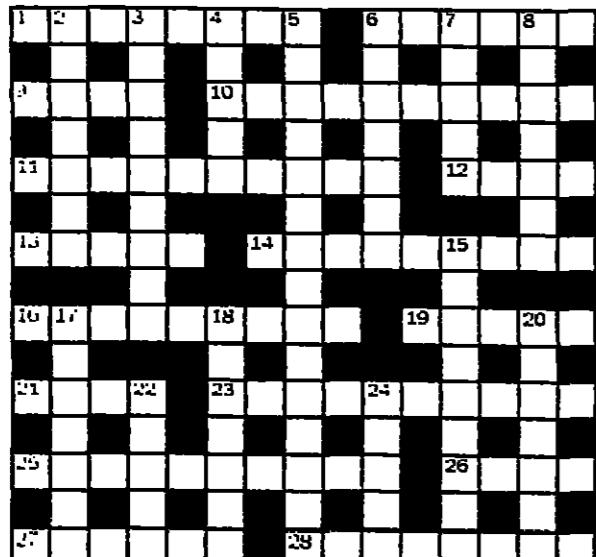
"I have nothing to prove to anybody but myself," he concluded. "You always have to prove some things to yourself and I want to prove I can do it at international level."

THE TUESDAY CROSSWORD

No. 3841 Tuesday 9 February

by Aledri

Monday's Solution



ACROSS
1 With exudation about cavity nothing can be stored there (10)
6 A bigger hole to produce snakes sappers tire (6)
9 O bother, you might say, if this fish gets away? (4)
10 South American power given an urban centre having insufficient space (10)
11 They must be put right about Rio Grande flowing (10)
12 His writers like these would be mocking title (4)
13 Condition of some of the best at equestrianism (5)
14 Shortly has work brought in specified as

"shell-shaped" (9)
16 Rock, applying big chances to right part of church (9)
19 Like Pisa's tower it is wrong in altitude (5)
21 Spiteful woman returns clutching large item chemist might sell (4)
23 Insubstantial people who manage glue factory? (10)
25 Where you'd find oracle having to show agreement about one sea creature (10)
26 Grey as Henry when empty (4)
27 Making observation I said gin must be poured out (6)
28 This tree can be used to make a garment (3,5)

Injuries prompt Dixon call

BY GLENN MOORE

If NICOLAS ANELKA runs out for France at Wembley tomorrow he will see a lot of familiar figures. He was already faced with the prospect of having to get past Arsenal team-mates Tony Adams and Martin Keown to get in a shot at David Seaman, and now he may have to deal with Lee Dixon as well. The Arsenal right-back was last night summoned to England's Berkshire headquarters as cover for Gary Neville, who has an ankle injury. With Emmanuel Petit and Patrick Vieira also likely to play, the resounding international could resemble a high-powered Arsenal training session.

Though Dixon, who made the last of his 21 international appearances in Graham Tay-

lor's final game, against San Marino in late 1993, is 35 next month his call-up is logical. He is well acquainted with Adams and Keown, and the only feasible right-back alternatives are Tony Adams and Martin Keown to get in a shot at David Seaman, and now he may have to deal with Lee Dixon as well.

The Arsenal right-back was last night summoned to England's Berkshire headquarters as cover for Gary Neville, who has an ankle injury. With Emmanuel Petit and Patrick Vieira also likely to play, the resounding international could resemble a high-powered Arsenal training session.

Paul Ince, who the FA originally said would not be considered for selection, now appears to be back in the frame. However, since he is suspended by UEFA for next month's Euro 2000 qualifying tie against Poland, the benefits of playing him are limited.

The obvious advantage is that he may help England win.

Wilkinson said: "I think one of the things Glenn [Hoddle] would have wanted out of this game is for the players to go into the Poland game knowing

they can win at Wembley because they had just done it against the world champions."

In five matches at Wembley last year England beat Portugal and the Czech Republic but drew with Saudi Arabia and Bulgaria and lost to Chile.

"One of my biggest problems," says Wilkinson, "is that I have not got my finger on the players' pulse the way Glenn had. It is like coming into any club - knowing how individuals tick, how they get on with each other, is important in team-building."

Roger Lemerre, the French coach, yesterday called up Sylvain Wiltord, the Bordeaux striker, to replace his club-mate Lilian Laslandes, who has a pulled muscle in his left leg.

Barnes enters Valley for free

BY ALAN NIXON

CHARLTON YESTERDAY completed the free signing of John Barnes from Newcastle, in a deal that will keep him in London until the end of the season. The 35-year-old former England midfielder, out of favour on Tyneside since the arrival of Ruud Gullit, impressed Alan Curbishley during a trial last week and could go straight into first-team action against his former club Liverpool at The Valley on Saturday.

Liverpool, meanwhile, are sending their former prodigy and England Under-21 prospect Danny Murphy back to Crewe Alexandra, the club which discovered him. As far as Liverpool are concerned, his Anfield career is over, and the club's manager Gérard Houllier has decided to sell.

Liverpool want £2.5m for Murphy, which is optimistic given his poor form. The Crewe move will at least give him the chance to display his talents before the transfer deadline and should also help the ailing side's fight against relegation. There is no chance of Murphy's move becoming permanent, because of his high wages, which Liverpool will contribute to while he is at Gresley Road.

Peter Johnson is ready to sell a chunk of his Everton shares to Bill Kenwright, but wants to keep a stake in the club.

The Jersey-based businessman, who owns 68 percent of the club, is close to agreement on the sale of over half his stake in Goodison to a consortium led by Kenwright, the caretaker chairman. Around 60 per cent of his shares could be traded off for about £25m this week.

Mark Goldberg, the owner of Crystal Palace, will launch a plan to bring in badly needed funds today - by asking fans to buy a five-year season ticket. Goldberg plans to create a "fanship" concept where fans pay for their seats for years in advance.

Among a host of financial problems, Goldberg is being threatened with legal action by former employees and agents who are owed money.

Tottenham have put a trio of surplus imports on the transfer list, with Moussa Samb, Paolo Tramezzani and Jose Dominguez all being told they can leave White Hart Lane.

Blackburn have rejected a transfer request from their unsettled goalkeeper Tim Flowers. Flowers, 32, a member of Rovers' title-winning side in 1995, demanded a move after losing his place to Australian John Filan. It was also announced yesterday that the Rovers striker Nathan Blake could be out of the game for several weeks, because of a disc problem in his neck.

Sheffield Wednesday have failed in their appeal to have a three-match ban for goalkeeper Pavel Srnicek reduced to one game following his recent sending-off against Derby last month.

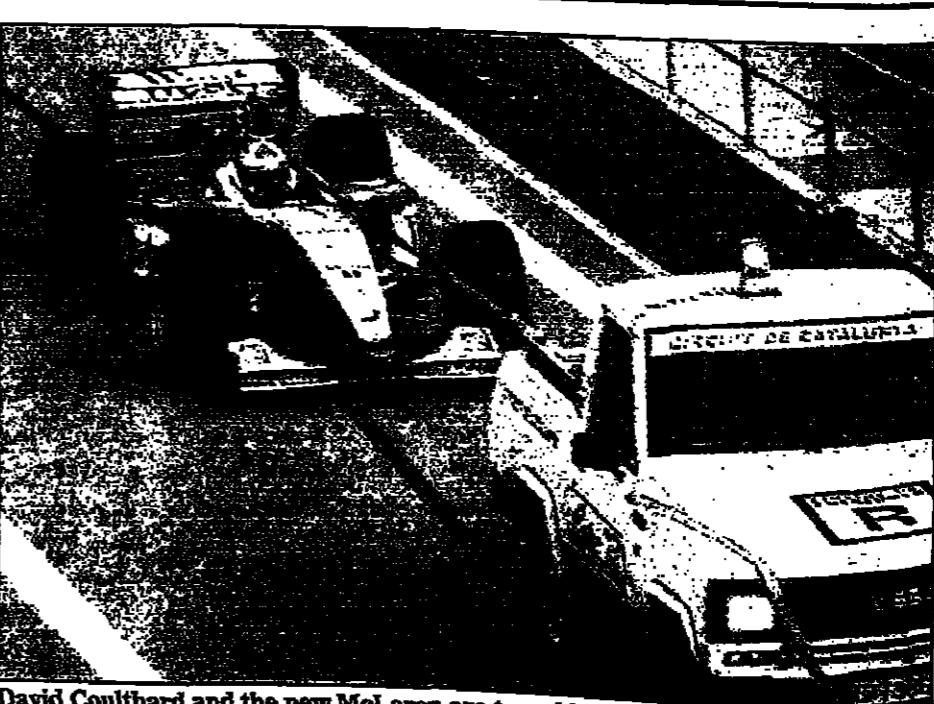
McLaren suffer tow-truck trauma

MOTOR RACING

was its first time on the track so you are always going to get teething problems." Norbert Haug, the head of Mercedes Motorsport, added.

Coulthard, after a delay, was able to eventually drive some test laps. He will also test the car today with the world champion, Mika Hakkinen, testing tomorrow and Thursday. The opening race in the world championship is the Australian Grand Prix in Melbourne on 7 March.

The new car is very similar looking to its predecessor, the championship-winning MP4-12.



David Coulthard and the new McLaren are towed back to the pits yesterday. AFP

TUESDAY REVIEW

COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • LISTINGS • TELEVISION

Comebacks are the
curse of the age.

So why do we
fall for them?

Or must we accept that,
when it comes to Blondie,
we're always

Touched by your presence, dear

BY JOHN WALSH

She had eyes like the Snow Queen, eyes that could look right into your heart and turn it to solid ice. There was no comfort in her gaze, no warmth, no interest. She sang with a kind of nervy blankness, as if the lyrics meant nothing to her and, when she narrowed her eyes, you felt as if she must hate you. She was the most beautiful woman we had ever seen. We adored her. Her name was Debbie Harry, and she sang with Blondie, the most successful New Wave band in the restless period that immediately followed punk.

We were just out of university; we'd been through punk – the pins, the rage, the gobbing of the spiky hair and the radical typography – and, in 1978, we just wanted some intelligent rock'n'roll again. Blondie came sassing into the charts and dished it up: "Denis", "Heart of Glass", "I'm Always Touched by Your Presence Dear", "Sunday Girl". They were real songs, with real hooks, classy keyboard runs, tormented drumming. We danced to "Dreaming". We sang along to "One Way or Another" ("I'm gonna getcha, getcha...") like karaoke nerds. And whenever there was half a chance, we just gazed at Debbie Harry.

She looks out from the sleeve of the band's third album, *Eat to the Beat*, with the glazed hauteur of a supermodel, her eyes toxic with desire; her lips set in a soaring pout, her eyebrows arched in the most minimal enquiry, her platinum hair swept in a couture wave down to her neck – around which is proprietorially twined the hairy arm of Chris Stein, her Svengali, co-writer, guitarist and boyfriend.

He was a sultry, Brooklyn-Jewish, brooding sort of chap, and we hated him because she seemed to belong to him. Debbie Harry, the icon of transatlantic independence, belonging to anyone. How did that work?

The band were full of contradictions, and they mostly resided in the gutter. Aphrodites who fronted them. She was both baby-doll young and too old for punk; it was rumoured that she was over 30, although she dressed in plain white shirts and white boots; she reminded you of every blonde goddess you'd ever seen, from Monroe and Jean Harlow right up to Nico, but hers was a different bloneness, at once trashy and

pristine. We knew she'd been a *Playboy* bunny, a waitress, a quondam junkie ("That's why her skin's so perfect," we explained, knowingly), but she was now a self-created goddess.

Things went wrong. When Blondie split up in 1982, her solo career wobbled uncertainly for 10 years. Debbie Harry shifted into shock mode. The sleeve artwork of her solo album *Koo Koo* was by HR Giger, the intensely obsessed production designer of *Aliens*, and featured Ms Harry's cheeks punctured by long, rusty spikes. She appeared in John Waters' camp and rubbishy *Hairspray* movie, and in David Cronenberg's deeply unsettling *Videodrome*. The good times were over; for Ms Harry and her fans.

A couple of years ago, I saw Debbie Harry again. She was singing with the Jazz Passengers at the *Jazz Cafe* in London's Camden Town, and I went along to check it out.

Can I bring myself to say what she was wearing? Can I say the word? Ms Harry was wearing a jumper. A sensible, ordinary, pink wool jumper. Her head, which had always seemed a little disproportionately large for her slender frame, seemed to have broadened out, like a Holloween pumpkin after a week in the window. Her hair was mousy-nondescript. Middle age had finally caught up with the goddess. She seemed nervous, confident, a little reluctant to sing. And when she did sing, her voice was thinner than I recalled, estiolated, drained of energy, more pale than blonde. She did "One Way or Another" slowly, as a wistful plaint rather than a statement of gyno-getcha sexual intent. The whole evening felt like a sad experiment.

Now look what's happened. At the end of January, a song called "Marie" started winding around the airwaves, with a high chorus line sung as though by a nun in suspenders ("Mai-ress-ah/ Just gotta see her...") that sounded eerily familiar. The accompanying pop video was dark to the point of pointlessness, but through the murk you could make out the penetrating blue eyes, the trashy barnet, the sharp Giger cheekbones, all over again. "My God, who's she?" babbled my 11-year-old daughter. We both gazed at Ms Harry, now 53, radiating sexy hauteur, singing in front of the old line-up, Stein, Clem Burke and Jimmy Destri, apparently reborn.

What's odd is how pleased you feel about this comeback. It's by no means a typical reaction. The Nineties have been so filled with comebacks,

retreads and recyclings that we sometimes seem to be in danger of entering a retro-universe, one that hits an evolutionary wall and then starts going backwards.

We may smile to see Louie Donegan putting out a new record, *Muleskinner Blues*, at the age of 70, or to find the Sixties crooner Engelbert Humperdinck being dusted down, and the rebarbitive Tony "Is This the Way to Amarillo?" Christie turning up on *Top of the Pops*. We may

utter a sympathetic "Aww..." at the news that a job lot of effete Eighties posers (Culture Club, Human League and ABC) are sharing an evening of nostalgia, or when we find Duran Duran insisting that they're very much direct competition to Simon and Garfunkel these days. We went up in wonder at a playbill from Wembley Arena announcing a concert this May – "The All-American Solid Gold Rock and Roll Show" – starring Little Richard, Bobby Vee, Chris Montez, Little Eva and Brian Hyland.

Who's Brian Hyland? He sang "Itsy Bitsy Teeny Weeny Yellow Polka Dot Bikini" back in the days when Princess Margaret was going around on a motorbike.

But the fact is, there are some comebacks that are just not acceptable to the public and some that are. The Osmonds, no. The Bay City Rollers, no thanks. Hawkwind, nah. Bros, no way.

But Roxy Music, ooh yes. The Clash, yes indeed. The Pogues, God yes. And Blondie are right there among the yeses. They were a group you never had to defend your interest in, or justify your liking for. Ms Harry and her acolytes were genuines at throwaway pop; that's what, paradoxically, made their songs so enduring. Ms Harry's look was a construct, that drew attention to her black roots, her pancake make-up, her machine-tooled gleam of sex; that's why we took her to our hearts. We cared for her because she encouraged us not to. We loved her precisely because she turned out to have a heart of glass.

And we liked the band because their songs were incontestably their own. Now, at the end of the Nineties, the hit parade is full of recycled songs, listless cover versions of hits from the Sixties and Seventies. Listen to 91.1's recent spotty warbling of Dr Hook's "A Little Bit More", or Emme's antiseptic disco version of Roxy's "More Than This", or Boyzone's overwrought mangling of the Bee Gees' "Words", and the forty-something parent smiles his brow, stalks the

living-room and tells his unimpressed children that they're listening to a series of pathetic simulacra, a plastic Echoland in which nothing is original except the singers' habit of wearing telephone-receptionist's headpieces while performing gymnastic dance routines that would have seemed dated to Pan's People, circa 1968.

We pick and choose authenticity in our lives. We choose these political beliefs, these clothes,

this music, this shade of terracotta, this holiday destination, in the belief that, because they have a special reality for us, they are more intrinsically real than other beliefs, clothes, notes, colours, islands. We make them ours. We perform a series of passionate identifications with artefacts, selecting them from the cultural market garden, thinking they will combine in a harmonious, thousand-petaled display and that will be the picture of our soul. We may get it wrong all the time, but what we once chose was once part of our sense of who we were. That's what counts. And when a band such as Blondie comes back – driven by heaven knows what impulse of artistic or, more likely, financial need, but sounding true to themselves – you welcome them back, as you would regard with a wry smile a younger, handsomer photograph of yourself.

Why is this comeback so popular? Maybe the country is full of sentimental 35-to-45-year-olds who grew up with Ms Harry's trash-goddess vocals forming the sound-track of their lives, and now – with the house, the garden, the mortgage, the children and the asparagus kettle – like to feel they're still growing that their heroine, their ice queen, is at No 1 in the charts, though of course they're far too mature to care about "charts". Perhaps the whole comeback culture is a saying-goodbye to the century by re-reading the books we trod in youth. Somehow, you can't imagine a Culture Club Nostalgia Tour in the year 2001. It's that Big Nought, of course. The bands that used to make all the running have got just 10 months of final encores left before we hit Year Zero, and a whole new world of new acts, new music, new art forms, gets going.

I can't say. But I'll just go and put "Dreaming" on the record deck one more time. It's probably the best of the singles that conquered the world at the end of the Seventies, and it finds the goddess in reflective mode: "We don't stand on ceremony. We just walk on by. We just keep on dreaming." So do we, Deborah, so do we.

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MEDIA

Why have children?

Sir: The reason society should support child-rearing is simple (letter, 3 February): because like no other lifestyle choice, society needs children in order to continue to function. But if everybody decided not to have children until they could afford them, only the very rich would ever reproduce.

There is a growing body of opinion in the West which believes that only the rich have the right to reproduce, and anybody else daring to be feckless and selfish should probably have their offspring confiscated and re-allocated to more deserving recipients (ie richer ones). The logical extension of this, of course, is that whole nations with low GDPs should just contracept themselves out of existence, as they obviously can't afford children.

Such repellent Malthusian ideas went out of fashion after the successes of the postwar liberation and civil rights movements, but are creeping back into respectability under the guise of pretending that child-rearing is an individual rather than a social project.

JEAN MOLLOY

London SE3

Sir: In response to the article "Brain food for babies" (2 February), I feel that there is a lot of self-righteousness and smugness attached to breast-feeding.

My first child was part breast, part bottle-fed for his first seven months. Like Anabel Hands' two-and-a-half-year-old breast-fed offspring, he could be described as having "stunning" speech.

With my second child I ignored the social pressure to breast-feed and - blow me down - she, too, could be described as a "very alert baby". My second child has had a much healthier first year than her brother despite being "deprived" of "mother's milk".

I am sure that several factors affect children's cognitive development, early feeding just being one. Women should not be made to feel that they are in some way failing their children if they choose not to perform what for many is a difficult and arduous task.

ANGELA WALSH

Birmingham

Too many secrets

Sir: I am pleased to hear the Government is considering introducing a public interest defence into the Official Secrets Act ("Ministers in review of Secrets Act", 3 February).

In 1988, on behalf of the Labour Party, Roy Hattersley said: "It cannot be necessary or right to make every item connected with security, no matter how loosely, subject to automatic restriction. It is

intolerable that the Government alone should be able to define the individuals who are covered by the blanket ban, and the categories of work to be shrouded in secrecy".

The section which was being used against my client David Shayler does not require that the disclosure needs to cause specific kinds of harm. If an employee of one of the services disclosed anything, no matter how trivial or inaccurate, they will be guilty of a criminal offence.

Free speech has to be weighted against national security, but a public interest defence would allow that balance to be struck by a jury. It would also ensure that the Act complies with Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights. The current Act forces us to trust the Government to get the balance right. History teaches us that such complete trust in government is misplaced.

JOHN WADHAM

Director, Liberty

London SE1

Free love

Sir: Readers of an affectionate disposition, or those with harems, might be interested to know that our local Woolworths here in Uxbridge has been offering three Valentine cards for the price of two.

CHRIS PAYNE

Uxbridge, Middlesex

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, London E14 5DL and include a daytime telephone number, fax to 0171 293 2056 or e-mail to letters@independent.co.uk. E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address.

Letters may be edited for length and clarity



Andy Johnstone

Winter in Moscow No 2: Men eating chocolate and drinking vodka at sunset beside the freezing Moskva river

Woodhead's gaffe ...

Sir: Contrary to Chris Woodhead's claims, it is not an educational experience when a member of the teaching profession has a relationship with a sixth-former.

My children attended a school where just such an episode took place. The two people involved were so self-absorbed that the education of pupils took second place to this grand liaison.

In the end the entire thousand pupils must have been aware of this affair. It became a source of gossip and sniggers. It brought the entire teaching profession into disrepute.

Chris Woodhead has now retracted his earlier statement. Which one do we believe? Or is there a third way? He is clearly unfit to supervise those who teach. It is time he went.

NAOMI BALCAM

Norwich

Sir: Chris Woodhead made very realistic and honest remarks about sex between pupils and teachers. He was, to anyone not a hypocrite or moral fundamentalist, quite right.

Can we sensibly maintain that sex between a young man of, say 17, and a female teacher of, say, 23, is necessarily a crime that should be punished with up to two years in jail and the end of the young woman's career?

Men who think this is so and especially Blair and Blunkett, should try to recall their feelings about sex at 17, or even 16. All my pals when I was that age would have simply loved to have such an encounter - particularly for its educational value.

TED BURFORD

London W5

Sir: Recent events have made it clear that Chris Woodhead should on no account be put in charge of the England football team.

MICHAEL SWAN

Chilton, Oxfordshire

... and Hoddle's

Sir: Robert Davies argues that Glenn Hoddle's comments ought not to qualify for complete tolerance. If we follow John Locke - who wrote persuasively of the need for religious toleration, but refused to extend this to the expression of opinions injurious to the Commonwealth (letter, 5 February).

This may mistake what we should draw from Locke. He declined to extend tolerance to those who held views the substance of which, if acted upon, would be injurious to society, such as Roman Catholics, who, at that time, held that the constitutional settlement in England was illegitimate.

Mr Hoddle's views, though, relate to something purely in the realm of thought, or speculation. Nobody could act on them, even if he or she so wished. As someone with a disability, I do not feel threatened by them - as I would if someone said that the disabled are a drain on the nation's resources, with the implication that any help to them should be curtailed.

J M SMITH

West Kirby, Merseyside

Sir: It is now a sackable offence to hold religious beliefs that somebody else finds ridiculous; specifically to believe, under the influence of a faith healer, that we pay in this life for our own sins in a past life.

Tony Blair's church believes, under the influence of a faith healer, that God assumed human form in order to pay for somebody else's sin in a past life - Adam's. It was nice of God to punish himself for Adam's sin, because otherwise God would have compelled himself to punish us for Adam's sin - obviously just deserts given that we are Adam's remote descendants. Except that nowadays, of course, educated people like Tony Blair don't believe Adam existed in the first place.

The fact is, any religion sounds barking mad except to those brought up in it. Could there be a lesson here?

RICHARD DAWKINS

Oxford

Life in stardust

Sir: Now that the die is cast as to what the Stardust mission to Comet Wild 2 might bring back in 2006 we consider it appropriate to recount the chronology of our own published ideas that relate to the subject of cometary origins of life ("Nasa takes off in search of stardust", 3 February).

Although the ideas of life existing outside the Earth and of panspermia have had a history stretching back over many centuries, the concept of comets carrying microbes began only with our own researches. This work has been published in a series of books and papers since the mid 1970s.

Prior to 1974 there were, as far as we could find, no references to organic materials in comets, let alone to a connection between comets and life. In October 1974 the first arguments for organic polymers in comets were published by one of us in collaboration with Professor V Vanek of Charles University in Prague, and

thereafter we extended this to discuss the explicit connection between comets and microbial life.

Our defence of cometary habitats for microbial life, including assertions of liquid water domains, was based on well-attested science - laboratory physics, microbiology and physical theory. It is ironic that a scientific community that adamantly resisted our arguments is now embarking on a historic mission that has as a prime objective a test of the theory of cometary life, a theory that was so deeply reviled in the 1970s.

Professor Sir FRED HOYLE
Professor CHANDRA
WICKRAMASINGHE
Cardiff

Healthy cynicism

Sir: The "poisonous cynicism about governmental intentions" that John Carr (Right of Reply, 8 February) finds regrettable is the very basis of the American system.

Checks and limits on governmental power was the overriding principle

in the writing of the Constitution. The purpose of US courts is not to decide what is in our best interest or what is good or bad, but what is consistent with the Constitution.

Decisions of Internet regulation are rightly libertarian in that regard. It is no coincidence that the Internet came out of this libertarian and unregulated system. I seriously doubt you would have the innovation and explosive growth of the Internet if it was under the control of, for example, the EU.

TOM HOFFMAN
Osprey, Florida, USA

Sir: Your article on bringing to light Tony Benn's 1970 speech on the "Data Bank Society" (Classic Podium, 6 February). The NCCL conference took its title from that of my book written with Malcolm Warner (1970). We warned of the inevitable intrusion into all our lives by electronic storage and distribution of personal data.

We pressed for adequate protective legislation, a few MPs listened; but Home Office civil servants cautiously drafted the Data Protection Act, which has been ineffective in the two major areas highlighted by Mr Benn. I have to live with the consequence of failing to get the law I wanted: more organisations know more

about me than I can remember; and I don't know who they are. I wish it were not so!

M G STONE
Chichester, West Sussex

Pension time-bomb

Sir: As your report (4 February) indicates, the Government's new "flexible pensions investment vehicle" does not appear likely to offer any significant new options.

"Old Labour" state-run social security is seen as no longer affordable, but the Government is loath to replace it by anything they think will be electorally unpopular.

The fallacies which will vitiate the plan are the assumptions that everyone will be continuously employed throughout life and will put something away for their old age. It seems almost certain that in 20 years' time, there will be a large number of people back where they would have been in the 19th century. Some of these could have avoided it, but many will have made rational decisions which turned out to be wrong. But fault or innocence is not the point. Not this government's problem, but a huge problem there will be.

It is on this basis that I appeal to you to give the Citizens Income a hearing, an unconditional payment to everyone sufficient to cover basic

needs, independent of work or other sources of wealth. This is being seriously investigated in other countries, notably Ireland, and to a lesser extent in the Netherlands.

A citizens income may well be seen as the only option when the foreseeable crisis develops, but it would be better to introduce it as a choice rather than in desperation.

CLIVE LORD
Convenor, Green Party Citizens Income Costings Group
Bailey, West Yorkshire

Right to drive

Sir: Duff Hart Davies's feature on recreational vehicular use of old roads (Weekend Review, 6 February) stops well short of telling the whole story, as does the dramatic picture accompanying it.

Throughout the centuries

Britain's roads have been

quagmires. Read contemporary reports of any long journey from the Middle Ages onwards. In Commons debates on the creation of turnpike trusts in the late 18th and early 19th centuries fears were expressed of deaths as carriages fell into rutted sections of roads, some of which are now dual carriageways; and others remain just as they were then.

As many miles of footpath are

ruined at the feet of hordes of walkers as are historic old roads damaged by modern vehicles. Only 4 per cent of the country's rights of way may be used by vehicles.

Illegal use may raise that figure to 5 or 6 per cent. Is it too much to ask walkers who may be offended at the prospect of meeting a vehicle to walk the other 95 per cent?

And while they are walking please may I ask that they don't park outside my house, nor even drive past it on their way to and from their walking destination. The sight, noise and fumes of their vehicles offend me as much as wheel tracks in the countryside appear to offend them.

GEOFF WILSON

Lazonby, Cumbria

Third World wages

Sir: Titus Alexander's claim (letter, 5 February) that "lack of demand in the world economy could be cured by paying people in the poorest countries more for their work" is economic quackery.

It's a basic Keynesian point that wages are pinned to the marginal product of labour. As Paul Krugman has observed, "all of the supposed excess production in the world economy has as a necessary counterpart increased income - every dollar of sales must also represent a dollar of wages or profits to somebody."

That increased income must be either saved or spent. So inadequate aggregate demand in the global economy would necessarily be reflected in a global excess of savings relative to investment opportunities. Yet savings rates in the developed economies have generally been falling, while in the developing world they have been rising less quickly than investment demand.

So far from stimulating

development, Mr Alexander's inflationary recipe would be the surest route to cutting real wages and depressing living standards in the Third World.

JOANNA CLARKE

Glasgow

pollution ("DNA tests reveal some 'organic' foods modified", 5 February). This is logical.

Nature designs genes to be stable and to work in harmony with each other and with their environment. People design genes to be mobile and to invade living cells. Is it any wonder that man-made DNA is on the move? How long will it take for genetic pollution to erode the health of our food and our environment sufficiently to cause global famine? My guess is within my lifetime.

GERRY O'BRIEN

London SW16

Sir: So, American crops are

already exhibiting genetic

names. Big deal. Now, what's your question?

Well, I was thinking that it's interesting that the name "gum boots" has survived as well as "wellington boots" has, even though "gum boots" has no linguistic by-products.

Dr Wordsmith writes: Just a one-off, surely. There is no other example of a garment which has two equal names.

Well, that's not quite true, is it? After all, there's scarves and mufflers. There's briefs and shorts. There's jerseys and jumpers. There's...

Dr Wordsmith writes: All right, all right, wise guy! So, when I said that no other garment has two names, I should have said that EVERY other garment has two

before the Duke of Wellington came along...

Dr Wordsmith writes: Look, have I missed something or have you asked your question yet? It wouldn't matter so much, except the pub has just opened and I think it's my shout...

My question is this. As I was putting my Wellington boots on this morning, I realised consciously for the first time that there is a certain technique involved in putting your trousers into the back of the boots. You don't just stuff your trousers down the boots, because they wouldn't fit. What you do is pull the leg back as far as it will go, then fold it round to the side and, while holding the trousers into the side, slide your leg into the boot, then leave go of the trouser.

Dr Wordsmith writes: Yes, I've

got that. Now, what's your question?

I just wanted to know if there was a word to describe that very particular and quite unusual technique.

Dr Wordsmith writes: I should think so for a moment. Do you realise, Dr Wordsmith, that all the information contained in this column has been provided by the readers and not a bit of it by you? Just what kind of an expert are you?

Dr Wordsmith writes: A very thirsty one, sir, and a very annoyed one at having been dragged out of the pub just to answer madcap questions about rubber boots. You will find me in the Three Jolly Cobblers - till then,

Everything you always wanted to know about rubber boots

YOUR INTEREST in the outskirts of English vocabulary is as lively as ever and I get a constant stream of inquiries from readers about obscure words and meanings. As you know

Why have children

At last – the start of a strategy to care for the carers

THE BLAIR Government's search for "joined-up policies" took a step forward yesterday, when the Deputy Prime Minister, John Prescott, launched the first national strategy for carers. Such a strategy is long overdue, and not simply to give carers' morale a boost – although it is to be hoped that it will serve that purpose. The real breakthrough was the change in the quality of service that carers will be entitled to demand.

The state saves an estimated £34bn a year through the work of all those who struggle to care for aged or infirm relatives, a captive reserve army of 6 million who now deserve some of that money back. Many of them are old people caring for their spouses, children looking after their parents, or women forced to interrupt careers to look after children. These forgotten props of the welfare state are not just receiving some of the recognition they desperately need; with just a little attention to detail, the Government is trying to change their everyday lives.

Investment in people, rather than institutions, will save money in the long run. Even something simple such as a ramp at the front door would prevent a district nurse or home help having to attend every time a wheelchair-bound resident wanted to get into his or her own home. Better trained carers will be able to cope with more difficult illnesses, allowing the elderly to stay at home longer, and forestalling the need to institutionalise them.

More importantly, new statutory regulations allowing social service departments to provide services direct to carers, and clear rights for those looking after their relatives, mark another stage in the shift from a command economy in care to a more consumer-oriented approach.

There are too many examples of crass insensitivity on the part of social services to represent isolated incompetence; their whole culture must now change. Local bureaucrats have to begin to serve customers rather than provide the services they have already decided on. As with their Social Exclusion Unit experiment, New Labour is rightly trying to bring together different agencies to serve people whose needs cannot be departmentalised.

The caring professions have been hampered by confused responsibilities; doctors, lacking the time for such work, often trust that local authorities are picking up the pieces. A survey published last September by the Princess Royal Trust for Carers showed that most carers felt GPs to be unaware of their needs. The National Strategy will increase consultative links between the NHS and local authorities. This should help to discourage narrow specialisms, dovetailing with the efforts of the Health Secretary, Frank Dobson, to establish joint budgets for the two services and to raise the standards of social services through a General Social Care Council.

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This change in attitude is more important than the extra money Mr Prescott announced yesterday. The provision of £140m to allow carers to take a break is not much, shared between 6 million people. It will amount to little, if it is not accompanied by an end to the division between health and social services that has plagued the provision of home care ever since the Sixties, and the start of a process that will lighten the burden of caring.

Much has been achieved through the campaigns mounted by carers' organisations, the burgeoning of which has been one of the most positive developments of recent years. The legal status of carers has been established; Invalid Care Allowance is to be paid to married women; council tax concessions have been granted. But in the end the most important development was the one reinforced yesterday: the move from prescribing care for a whole community to caring for the individual needs of some of the most valuable, resourceful, responsible and vital members of our society.

The stock market must not be too exclusive

A COMPANY named Rebus is casting off its London Stock Exchange listing: this modest computer services firm will be "going private". The news is unlikely to make much of a splash. But the point about Rebus is precisely that it is, relatively, insignificant. It is not the first, and will certainly not be the last, smaller enterprise to de-list. This tendency has been growing. So Rebus is a significant story for what it tells us about the state of our capital markets.

The main problem faced by smaller companies listed on the London International Stock Exchange is that they are a big yawn for the big institutional investors. It is only to be expected that, pushed ahead by a wave of globalising mega-mergers, the larger companies' share prices will outperform those of smaller ones. But the gap in performance

between the bigger and smaller companies has been growing at an alarming rate for some time.

The bull market has passed many firms by. This suggests a degree of market failure. Teams of researchers watch big firms' fortunes – and some smaller companies in trendy sectors such as the Internet – like hawks. Unfashionable smaller companies are under-researched, and thus under-bought. They then underperform and look even less interesting. A cycle soon sets in.

The market does have a correcting mechanism. When those who do know the true value of their concerns – often the existing management – see a bargain, then they buy their company from a neglectful stock market. But there is a price – the end of access to a cheap source of capital.

Generally, the world's stock markets are efficient ways of raising money. The markets can, as biotech and technology stocks show, take a long view. But for many smaller companies it is unfortunate that the stock market is becoming a more and more exclusive club.

These rebels may be game for a laugh, but they're good for nothing

RHODRI MORGAN is every educated Englishman's idea of what a Welshman should be like.

The MP is dark, his eyebrows are bushy, his voice is mellifluous and rarely silent; bardic blood can easily be imagined to be coursing through his veins. At night he probably meets under Llareggub hill and declaims with Butcher Beynon and the Reverend Eli Jenkins. As a personal secretary he seems an altogether natural choice (to an uninitiated English eye) for the Welsh Labour Party to pick as its candidate for the post of the first-ever Welsh First Minister. If you wanted an eisteddfod opened, Rhodri would appear to be your man.

But then, we English have not really been following the Welsh debate, nor will we have to live with the consequences. We simply note that Morgan's Blarite opponent, Alun Michael – the current Welsh Secretary – lacks *hutzpah*. His features are sharp where Morgan's are craggy, his tones flat where Morgan's are muscular; his pronouncements are boring and careful, while Morgan's are exciting and a bit...

The word, I think, is "silly". This feels a harsh thing to say about a man who is so popular with the Westminster press corps. When I was – briefly – a parliamentary sketch writer at the House, Rhodri Morgan was one of the few MPs who used regularly to telephone me and my colleagues with some droll tale that we might have liked to follow. For my part, all too often, I couldn't quite see the joke. I was grateful, but quite nonplussed.

And that was also how I felt this

weekend when I opened my Sunday newspaper and discovered a fairly typical "what the hell do we put on page 10?" spread about the BBC's planned programming on the first day of the new millennium. There, surrounded by pictures of Des Lynam and Jill Dando, was a story claiming that anger was growing outside England at the preponderance of English presenters who would be fronting this event.

Tam Dalyell MP was cross, while admitting that he hadn't even heard of Jill Dando, but the longest, most newsworthy comments came from our Rhodri. "The BBC is planning for its usual London-based luvvies," he is reported as saying. And he is supposed to have added: "This is the age-old problem of the BBC not being truly representative of Great Britain and, as usual, it is the Welsh and the Scots who are largely ignored."

It so happens that, these days, being Scottish or Welsh is an immense asset should you want to be a TV or radio presenter. Scottish and Welsh accents are considered to be engagingly déclassé in a way that English regional accents or received pronunciation are not. Turn into the *Today* programme and you will quickly discover that, of its three main presenters, two are Scots and the third is Welsh. At the other end of the day, on *Newsnight*, Paxman may be an Englishman, but Kirsty Wark is certainly neither of those things. Rhodri is just plain wrong.

However, this kind of mild, if empty, "speak first, think later" populism has characterised quite a lot of the



DAVID AARONOVITCH

You might vote for them, but only in the knowledge that there would always be Westminster to fall back on

Morgan campaign so far. It reminds one of the fact that, even before the Welsh referendum, Morgan was not chosen by Tony Blair to fill any position in government, including the Welsh Office.

Alun Michael, however, had already been Jack Straw's right-hand man for some time, and – though unspectacular in demeanour – was thought to be doing a good job at the Home Office, having never held a government post before.

Interestingly, it is those who voted against Welsh devolution who, in my experience, are more likely to support Morgan's candidacy. Some want to punish Tony Blair for inflicting a Welsh Assembly upon them; others reckon that if the thing is going to exist it may as well be led by an enthusiast. However, overall there is a sense

that this is one election in which it is fine to make a gesture, to do something different, to stop being so goddamn restrained and responsible – a sense, if you like, that it doesn't really matter.

This is supplemented by something else, which is unique to the British left: a hatred of being in power. A few weeks ago a man wrote to *The Guardian*'s letters page, expressing these sentiments: "I, too, have been a Labour supporter for 30 years," he lamented, "and I too have spent the months since May 1997 in a state of almost continual depression."

In London such a man would be campaigning hard for Ken Livingstone as the capital's mayor, I imagine. Ken, of course, is lionised by the luvvies who so worry Rhodri. That's because he's a laugh, is Ken, a character. The powers-that-be disapprove of him, and he uses their disapproval to fuel his campaign as any icon of teenage rebellion would. At one level Ken is the candidate for those who don't want to tidy their rooms and do their homework.

It is not Ken's fault that few can be bothered to read the large print, let alone the small. In a full-page advertisement in yesterday's *London Evening Standard*, Ken repeated his claim that "there is simply no question of my using the mayoralty to wage political warfare against the Government". Nevertheless, he wants to increase corporation tax on city firms, otherwise "we will find ourselves in conflict with the electorate and with our public sector unions". That, most emphatically, is not the view from No 11.

In the same advertisement, the Ken campaign proclaims that "Londoners are subsidising the rest of the country. For each pound... we get back only 75p." His target, once again, is Gordon Brown and the subsidised Scots. Not very undestabilising.

This is, of course, a mirror image of what the Scottish National Party has been saying to the increasingly sympathetic Scottish electorate. Where Ken sees a cabinet full of Scots, the SNP portrays a Labour Party full of Middle England-appeasing Isling-tonites. London plays the same role in SNP demonology as Dublin does in Ian Paisley's. The SNP argues that Scotland would do well out of a divorce.

As I write this, it is not impossible that all three campaigns – Morgan's, Livingstone's and the Scottish National Party's – will succeed. It raises some interesting possibilities for the future as these populist movements call for money to be stripped from the others and handed over to them. And I fully concede that each of the three represents something that is attractive about its nation or city.

The problem is that none of them is really serious, really grown-up. You might vote for them, but only in the knowledge that there would always be Westminster to fall back upon if all went belly up.

You can get Ken and still have Tony in No 10; you can enjoy Rhodri safe in the knowledge that the Alun Michaels are really in charge; you can take a punt on the Nats, but Gordon will still be running the economy. Which will be fun for a while. But, like all teenage parties, it won't last.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"After all this time and all this effort by so many people, I still don't have any answers."

Dwayne Brooks,

key witness in the Stephen Lawrence case

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"Life is a tragedy for those who feel, and a comedy for those who think."

Jean de la Bruyère,

French author

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You don't have to be married, in a relationship, or related to benefit from AA joint membership. You just have to share the same home address. Normally, joint membership is an option costing up to £26. Now, with this offer it comes completely free. For a limited period only, two people can join and benefit from a year's AA breakdown assistance for the price of one.

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MONITOR

ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD

Comment on the future of Jordan following the death of King Hussein

and its high-level delegation for the funeral is an indication of its regard for the new king. The Arab support being extended to him is a good augury.

THE NEW king, Abdullah, will reassure allies and friends that he will keep all of Jordan's commitments, while letting enemies know that he is not weak. Each step he takes will be

carefully designed to prove his readiness and competence, but the real test will come in five years or so if, and when, King Abdullah has proven himself to be the rightful, capable monarch ready to move out from his father's shadow. As for now, part of King Hussein's great legacy – despite his last-minute reshuffling of succession – was his ability to give Jordan such a relatively serene transition.

ABDULLAH PROMISES to follow his father's lead and pursue a policy of peace in the Middle East. But he has a long way to go before he can escape the legacy left by his father. Abdullah's transition to the throne takes place at a time when the peace process is deadlocked over the suspension of the implementation of the Wye agreement. Analysts expect it will be some time before Abdullah plays a role in the process.

China Daily

To our members we're not just a breakdown service, we're the 4th Emergency Service.



PANDORA

JUST AS Jack Straw is about to introduce a shake up of the system for dealing with asylum seekers, Pandora hears of the arrival on his doorstep of another group of desperate refugees. Hundreds of mice have turned up at the Home Office building at Queen Anne's Gate in London, having fled the tyranny of environmental health officers who have driven them out of their home under the nearby Tube station, St James's Park. Straw has remained true to his promises to remain firm but fair to those who come to him seeking sanctuary.

Pandora heard that he has installed a network of rodent-friendly traps designed to capture but not kill. A Home Office spokesperson raffishly told Pandora: "There has been no evidence of the mice for almost three weeks but I can tell you that there has been no danger to staff."

THE NORTHERN Ireland Assembly is looking for an "Unner-Editor for the Chaumur o' the Scrivit Account (Hansard)". The "Sellerie will be £13,737 iae £19,215 on a six-month ten-month term contract". In other words, this the Ulster-Scots or "Ullans" translation of an advertisement that will appear in tonight's *Belfast Telegraph* for a sub-editor for the Assembly's Hansard report of its proceedings. Pandora is reliably informed that it is the first Ullans advertisement of its kind. An Irish speaker is already in place but it will be hard going to find the Ullans equivalent. As a new, trilingual era beckons, Pandora is told that even finding someone to draft the advert was hard enough.

THERE'S A sort of bizarre symmetry in the appearance of Gants Hill, Essex, which featured in a new report on our suburbs by the Civic Trust. The last time journalists were wandering the streets and writing colour pieces on this obscure suburb was 29 years ago, during the civil war in Jordan, when it was the central news-gathering point for reporters seeking news of the beleaguered King Hussein. All communication links with Amman were down and for a week much of the war news plus interviews with the king were channelled through the dining-room of a terraced house in Gants Hill. Front pages



Contact
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were filed from the dining-room, TV crews from all over the world camped out in the prim suburban street, filming everything that moved, and one night the BBC2 news was even presented live from the house.

VIEWERS OF the Scotland v Wales rugby match in the Five Nations' championship on Saturday will have caught a glimpse of Donald Dewar and Alun Michael, the respective secretaries of state, watching the game at Murrayfield. Michael certainly deserves some relaxation after a few setbacks in his contest with Rhodri Morgan for Labour's choice for Welsh Assembly leader. Pandora has followed the contest closely and wondered where Rhodri Morgan was for the game. It appears that on Saturday morning both men were campaigning in North Wales. Afterwards Michael was flown out to watch the game live in Scotland, while Morgan chose the humbler surroundings of Wrexham Labour Club TV lounge.

PANDORA SALUTES the Ministry of Defence who appear to have made the most dramatic expenditure saving in history. In 1996/97 the department spent £481,383 on public opinion surveys. But according to a parliamentary answer given late last week, in 1997/98 the department spent only the princely sum of 5p on opinion polls. Pandora would appreciate the name of their accountant.

NEWS REACHES Pandora of the actress Sophia Loren doing a *Delia*. The screen goddess has just launched her own cookbook - *Sophia Loren's Recipes and Memories*. While she does not advise on how to boil an egg, she does tell aspiring cooks about her First Communion service, at the age of nine. The service was marred by wartime aerial bombings interrupting the ceremony. One bomb fell about 300 yards from the church. Defiant Sophia says: "I wasn't particularly forthcoming, but even in the midst of the bombings I would be anticipating, with all the strength my stomach could muster, the pleasure that eating would bring."

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No wonder our children are bonkers



TERENCE BLACKER

The problem lies with adults who express their own anxieties in their attitudes to the young

LAST WEEK'S revelation that our children are suffering from primary school executive stress, are often weirdly neurotic and are generally going bonkers, should perhaps come as no surprise.

For some time, after all, we've known that more pupils are being excluded from schools than ever before. The rise in juvenile crime has become so severe that a children's prison is now available where 11- and 12-year-olds are put under the care of Group Four security operatives. As for the mental health of our more law-abiding children, a recent survey that put Tim Henman in 11th place in a list of moral and spiritual leaders most respected by 15-year-olds tells its own grim story.

The problem, it need hardly be said, lies not with children, most of whom remain surprisingly sane, but with adults who tend to express their own anxieties in their attitudes towards the young.

The Victorians were clammy obsessed with the innocence of childhood and eagerly painted or photographed its naked, prelapsarian purity. More recently, the ideals of the hippie revolution

curled at the precise point, in the late Sixties, when its leaders became preoccupied with the "liberation" of schoolchildren, while the following decade revealed a sort of guilt-ridden fear of the young, with the new wave of such books and films as *The Exorcist*, *Flowers in the Attic* and *The Shining*.

Elements of all these neuroses are evident today - for example, in

the unhealthy media interest in paedophilia and in the peculiar public rage shown against young offenders - but a contemporary gloss has been added. According to last week's report from the Mental Health Foundation, children are increasingly perceived either as "evil demons" or, on the other hand, as "designer accessories or pets".

In other words, now that we not only compete for better salaries but also like to show a healthy profit in our caring, emotional lives, the need to be seen as a successful parent has become central. Children have become little ambassadors for their proud, boastful parents.

But to raise these acceptably dynamic yet well mannered children, who pass all the right exams and get into the right schools, requires money, effort and anxiety from middle-class parents in the private system. Rumously expensive nursery schools employ a head of studies who solemnly reports to parents on the academic progress of their four-year-olds. Teachers in private and public sectors are under unprecedented pressure from the more ambitious parents to push

their progeny up out of the much-feared average-ability band.

Oddly, these attitudes seem to have infected the educational system as a whole. The national curriculum has radically reduced the time pupils spend playing or in lessons now deemed less important (music or drama, for example) in favour of yet another exam-oriented lesson in literacy or arithmetic. In our eagerness to turn our children into respectable, upwardly mobile mini-adults, we are squeezing out the very moments of leisure, freedom and exploration that would provide them with the self-sufficiency and emotional resources they need to survive in an absurdly stressful world. The much-vaunted caring society is in too much of a hurry to allow children to develop at their own pace.

Meanwhile, at the other end of the scale, parents who have discovered that their children are neither pets nor accessories but are every bit as inconveniently imperfect as any adult express the new spirit of selfishness not in over-competitiveness but with neglect - passing on an inheritance of despair and

The mini-adults are coming into their inheritance.

We may need the Americans, but peace will still come



DAVID MCKITTRICK
London, Dublin and
Washington could force
Trimble and Adams
into an accommodation

AS EVERY Irish schoolboy knows, or thinks he knows, Lloyd George threatened Michael Collins with "immediate and terrible war" should the 1921 Anglo-Irish negotiations prove unsuccessful. If the Good Friday agreement unravels over the next few months, few really believe that the same sword of Damocles hovers over everyone's head. Failure is much more likely to lead to confusion than an instantaneous return to full-scale paramilitary battle.

There is little sense that the big battalions are poised and ready to roll if the agreement goes down, but if it does disintegrate, all will be plunged into extremely hazardous free fall. Nowhere on the horizon is there any sign of any credible Plan B: it's the agreement or it's back to the drawing-board.

The mood out there on the streets is complex. Although there is much worry about the fate of the agreement, there is still no great sense of crisis. Seventy-one per cent of voters endorsed the agreement in last year's referendum; if they were really worried, some of them would surely be making their anxious voices heard, out on the streets or in other ways. But they're not, and that's probably because, as Mo Mowlam told David Frost the other day, they can think different things at the same time. Nobody can see how to solve the decommissioning conundrum, yet at the same time few really believe that the peace process is about to end.

This is partly complacency, and partly a slightly irrational sense that something that has come so far and achieved so much could not simply implode now, when a new cross-community government is within grasp. Yet complacency is not so far from optimism, and it really does seem to be the case that Northern Ireland has enjoyed in more than three decades.

Although the major groups are certainly involved in illegalities, such as "punishment" assaults, they show no appetite for a return to war on the old model. Speaking recently of the peace process, a senior

republican figure said: "We have made life decisions - this leadership of Sinn Fein made life decisions in going down this path."

A similar attitude is evident on the loyalist side, where most leadership figures give no sign of seeking a way back to war. There are, however, elements on both the republican and loyalist sides who are attempting to restart the conflict, and are regrouping themselves into new organisations. While some of these have the capacity to do real damage, they are microscopic in comparison with the bigger groups. They are splinters from splinters; their membership measured in dozens rather than thousands, out of step not just with the general public but also with the paramilitary mainstream.

As ever in Northern Ireland, different psychologies can be seen at work on the Protestant and Catholic sides. Nationalists can be heard worrying that even after the Good Friday agreement, Unionists are showing they have a veto on many aspects of the process. David Trimble, as first minister designate, has deliberately played it long, imposing his own pace on the process and reducing its momentum to a crawl in a way that has produced much frustration among other players. At the same time he has also scored that rarest of things, a Unionist PR victory, in putting republicans on the back foot on decommissioning and punishment attacks.

On the Unionist side, the decommissioning debate fulfils several functions. Though Mr Trimble did not manage to have it inserted in the Good Friday agreement as a pre-condition, he has since emerged as its most vociferous champion. In doing so he has snatched away some of the initiative previously held by the anti-agreement Unionist camp, and in one sense has



Sen George Mitchell, left, with David Trimble Brian Little/PA

blurred the lines between pro- and anti-agreement Unionists.

Some of those insistent on decommissioning hope that it will be achieved and quietly look forward to the day when everybody, including Sinn Fein, will sit together in an executive. Others in the camp, though, want to use it as a weapon to keep Sinn Fein out, while some hope that it will wreck the whole process. Then again, some of the anti-agreement Unionists have come to love the new assembly, and want to see the continuation of the assembly and the new status and salaries it has bestowed on them.

As so often in the Middle East, and presently in Kosovo, situations such as this can drag on interminably, generally deteriorating as time passes unless matters are deliberately brought to a head. In Belfast, a decision has now been reached that only a highly intensive negotiation will sort things out, and that a political pressure-cooker is therefore under construction.

Mo Mowlam has said that by 10 March, all will be ready to devolve real power to the assembly, and although this is officially target date, it is fast turning into a deadline. The scene is thus set for a re-creation of the talks that culminated on Good Friday, with exhausting all-night sessions following which politicians emerged into the spring sunlight, pale and drawn, to announce that an acceptable compromise has been hammered out.

It was suggested yesterday that the former US Senator George Mitchell, who chaired some of the last bout, might return to Belfast again. His reappearance would signify the reinvolvement of Bill Clinton. The theory is that with London, Dublin and Washington breathing down their necks, both David Trimble and Gerry Adams would be forced into an accommodation.

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overestimate, but figures would have been high. Clearly the existing cemeteries could not cope, and new emergency provision was made.

In 1905 a mass grave was uncovered on the site of the Grey Friars priory, north of St Paul's, with several hundred burials. There are records that another site of 13 acres was purchased for the same purpose near Smithfield.

By the 17th century, London's church cemeteries were becoming overcrowded. There was often no room for expansion close to the church, so new cemeteries were established on the edge of built-up areas.

Between 1837 and 1841 the government authorised the building of seven commercial cemeteries. The most famous of these were Highgate, Kensal Green and Nunhead.

As long as development continues in London there will be pressure on land and the need to move the last resting place of some of our ancestors. Archaeologists will continue to offer an option for their removal, which will contribute to our knowledge about this important aspect of life in the past.

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IN0277

The perils of digging up our ancestors



PODIUM

HEDLEY SWAIN
From a lecture by the
head of the early
collections department,
delivered at the
Museum of London

There is now a large and detailed literature on the ethics of excavating, curating and displaying human remains. However, it has to be said that this deals almost entirely with foreign cultures and religions. Concerns about the ethics of excavating earlier generations of Britons, once they are beyond those who may have living relatives, are less clear-cut. It has been noted that "British attitudes to dead bodies are ambivalent, contradictory and volatile". One reason for this is that Christian faith does not have strong views on the sanctity of the dead.

Archaeologists are very

conscious of the dangers involved in their work. Many precautions are taken. Diseases to watch include tetanus and Well's disease.

However, there are a number of extra dangers that are

specifically associated with excavating human remains.

There is a risk of catching the

diseases that caused the death

of the body, only if any of the

soft tissue survives; this is

likely following more modern

burials only where wood, or

more probably lead, coffins

have been used. Two diseases

about one in ten adult and one in three child deaths were from smallpox, so any excavation of burials from that period is bound to deal with victims.

Can the virus survive for

long periods?

Farewell to the old factories



HAMISH MCRAE

Production lines have dominated this century, but they won't dominate the 21st century

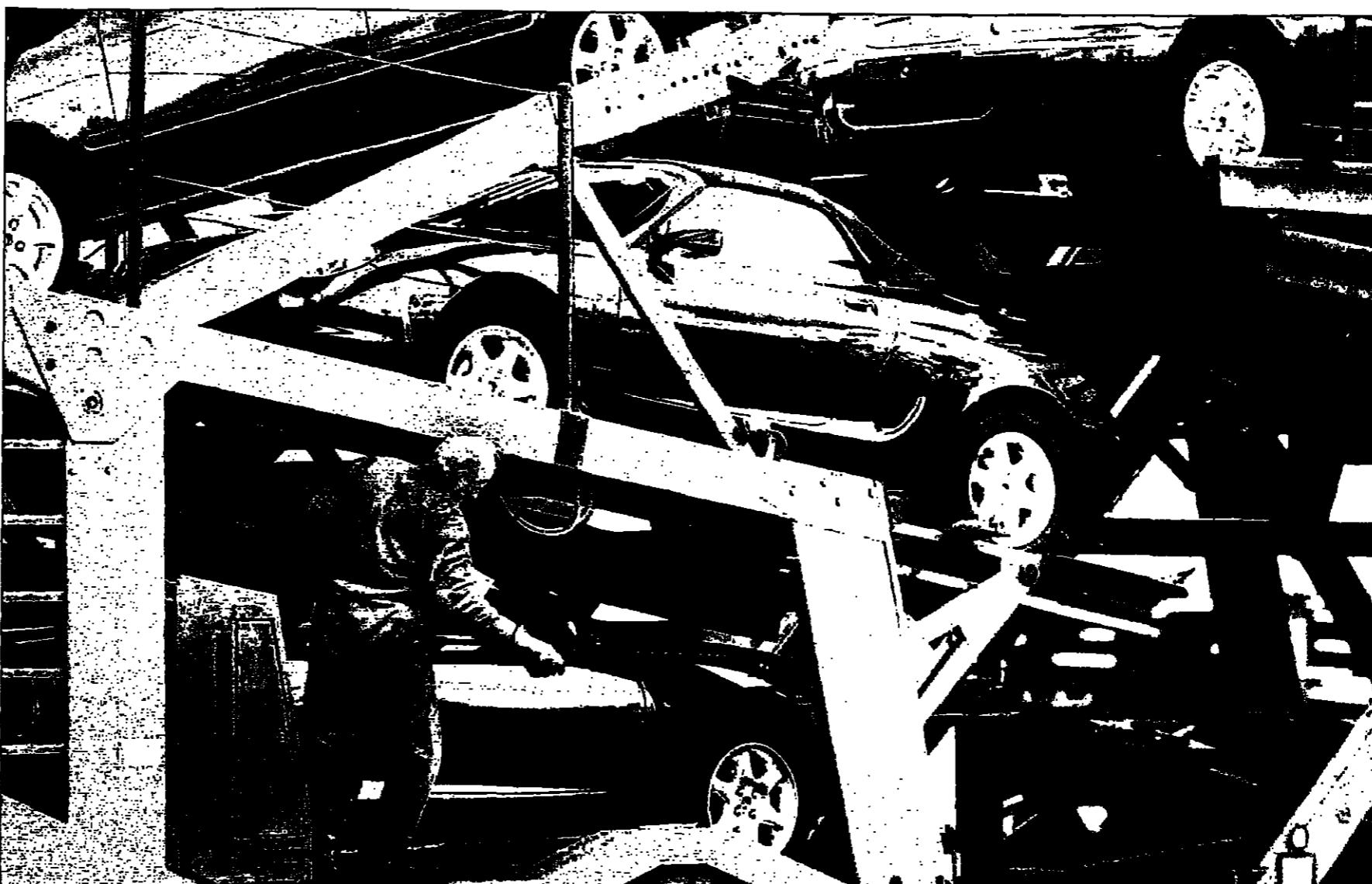
ANYONE CONTEMPLATING the plight of Rover should get the bad news out of the way first. Rover has to face three harsh realities. The first is that there is around 40 per cent over-capacity in European car production. The second is that the UK does not have any evident comparative advantage in mass production of consumer durables, including cars. And the third is that a management team probably better suited to the task of rescuing Rover than any other in the world has so far failed to revive it.

Now three bits of good news. This is not a re-run of the "Red Robbo", Austin Allegro, mass picketing mayhem of the Seventies. Nor is the future of the motor industry any longer so crucial to the future of the British economy. And there are corners of the British car industry that have a fascinating potential in the next century.

The negatives have been widely aired. Manufacturing cars has been the most important industry this century, but now it is a mature one. In the developed world, the market is a replacement one; it is no longer growing. As the quality of cars improves, the need to buy new cars diminishes, and as new industrial nations with low labour costs enter the market, the global supply rises. The resulting over-capacity has to be taken out somewhere.

Some will come out here in Britain. The UK is by no means a bad place to build cars. As Nissan has demonstrated in Sunderland, British workers, properly trained and properly treated, can be as productive as any in the world. But that is in a new plant, with imported skills, and in a part of the country with no tradition of making cars. In the old Austin plant of Longbridge, with a troubled history and lack-lustre products, even a management as flexible, intuitive and determined as BMW has found it impossible not to lose a great deal of money.

On the surface there is a sense of *déjà vu* – as though we are back in the Seventies. The weekend of the boardroom row, resignations, interviews with worried workers, threats to shut Longbridge, calls for government support, and – a nice touch – Dennis Skinner calling for the company to be nationalised.



MG sports cars being transported from the Rover Group plant at Longbridge near Birmingham

John Vos

The reality, mercifully, is very different. This issue now is not what to do with a strike-ridden catastrophe, but rather how to manage a further downsizing of part of an industry in a civilised way. Change is inevitably painful: decent people end up being hurt, and the shock-waves extend far beyond the direct employees to entire communities.

So the more cleverly change is managed, the smaller the number of casualties and the less extensive the collateral damage. If that means taking money from British taxpayers and giving it to the Quant family in Bavaria (the principal owners of BMW) to bribe them to keep some production going in Longbridge, then so be it. But we should not kid ourselves that this is the best future for the British economy. That future lies elsewhere.

But where? You have to start with the question – what can we do in this country that gives us a comparative advantage over other people in other countries?

Objectively there are several areas where there is a measured advantage: in pharmaceuticals, financial services, media and entertainment, miscellaneous high technology products, and so on. There is one well-known example

in the motor trade: racing cars. The majority of the world's Formula One cars are made here in Britain because the cluster of skills needed to make them happens to have developed here. Two particular qualities – creativity and craftsmanship – happen to abound in the UK, and in industries which require these, it is possible to dominate the world market.

Sub-pockets of these craft-based motor manufacturing businesses need developing into something more. Mayflower has made a success of producing bodies for the new MG. The newest potential business, for those interested in such things, is sticking powerful motorcycle engines into snazzy two-seater sports-car bodies to create a new generation of funmobiles.

The craft element in manufacturing – in retreat for two generations – is again becoming significant. We tend to forget that until Henry Ford invented the production line, most manufacturing was craft-based. There were factories for textiles, but in the last century most of the products of the industrial revolution were made individually. Ships were one-offs, each different from the one before.

Railway engines were made in batches. The earliest cars were made in batches, largely by hand.

Today, this way of organising production continues in a few industries: for example, large aircraft engines and the aircraft themselves. Aircraft production can be quite highly automated, but it is qualitatively different from the sort of production line that produces, say, a TV set. The motor car is interesting because it is the most complicated product in the world built on a production line. It is, so to speak, at the top of that chain.

Now ponder this proposition: production lines will become less important. They dominated the 20th century, but they will not dominate the 21st to anything like the same extent.

There are a number of reasons to support this view. First, manufacturing as a whole is accounting for a smaller and smaller proportion of the economy of developed nations, for as we get richer we tend to spend a higher proportion of our income on services rather than goods. True, services are now being manufactured in ways that would have seemed odd even 10 years ago – think of call centres and dealing rooms as factories producing

services. But though a call centre is a factory of sorts, it is not a production line; each person is doing an individual one-to-one job.

Second, when we buy goods, even if they are mass-produced, the numbers of people employed on the production lines to make them has come down to perhaps a quarter of the level of 25 years ago, and will fall further. Go round a modern car factory and there will be hardly anyone on the line; only if something goes wrong will people jump out and fix the automated machine that has developed the fault.

Third, as societies become richer, more and more people will be prepared to pay for something that is individually-made, rather than stamped out on a production line. We cannot all afford handmade products (and with cars there are not many of them around). But anyone who chooses to run an older classic car rather than a modern buzz-box is essentially paying for the craft skills to keep it running rather than the production line skills to build the new alternative.

I am not, of course, suggesting that Longbridge's future lies in turning itself into a classic car reconditioning factory – though the government would be wise to look

at the total employment in the classic car industry and see this as a point of potential growth.

What I am saying is that being good at mass manufacturing is not as important an aspect of economic success as it used to be. If you are wonderful at making cars, as Germany is, that is great. Germany has become the world's largest exporter largely on the back of success in one industry. It has the agglomeration of design and management skills that enables it to charge a premium price for its products and so overcome the handicap of high labour costs.

We do not have that advantage and accordingly have to be subcontractors to Germany and to other nations. But being good at a mature industry, probably a shrinking one, is not a particularly profitable part of the commercial forest to occupy. The important thing to do is to occupy the portions of the forest that will grow. Most of these are outside manufacturing, but one that is within it – craft manufacturing – seems to be one where we are in with a good chance. The one element of the global motor industry that is craft-dominated, racing cars, we dominate. There will be others in the years ahead.

RIGHT OF REPLY

NICOLAS WALTER



A director of the Rationalist Press Association responds to Paul Vallely's recent articles about atheism

PAUL VALLEY includes in his criticisms of the views of non-religious people such as Ludovic Kennedy (daily book review, 3 February) and myself ("An organised faith in humanity", 30 January) the questionable statements that "human beings are hard-wired for religion as they are for language and music" and that "biogenetic structuralism now suggests that human beings are genetically programmed for music, language, dance – and religion".

What is the evidence? Has anyone actually discovered a "hard wire" or gene for religion? Even if almost all of us are programmed for language, and most of us for music and perhaps dance, are any of us programmed for religion? Even if most people in most places at most times seem to have supernatural and superstitious views, must all people in all places at all times therefore do so?

Even if everyone were religious, would this mean that religion is true, in any normal sense of the word? Many people believe in witches or ghosts, astrology or telepathy, reincarnation or resurrection, but does this mean that such beliefs are true in any sense at all? Even if religious people are happier and healthier, does this make them right?

What about the large and growing number of people who don't have any kind of supernatural or superstitious beliefs, and do quite well without them? Are we somehow genetically defective – spiritually tone-deaf or colour-blind, as it were?

Or rather, since we no longer hear imaginary voices or see imaginary visions, do we perhaps belong to the next stage in human evolution? Are we intellectually or morally inferior in any way to religious people, or are we actually superior?

The street smell of success



TUESDAY BOOK

CHARLES BUKOWSKI: LOCKED IN THE ARMS OF A CRAZY LIFE
BY HOWARD SOUNES, REBEL INC. £15.99

biographical movie *Barfly*, in which he was played by Mickey Rourke – changed a lot, but he meant that it changed nothing important. Ultimately, Bukowski was a poet of small things, the small necessary things that kept him alive and working.

Biographers of Bukowski face a particular problem, because most of their readers will be his readers. They will already know his life story. They will have encountered it in his strange, affecting prose, which is direct and

spare as well as romantic and self-mythologising.

In novels such as *Post Office* and *Fiction*, he straightforwardly recounts a life of writing in between desperate jobs – sorting mail on night shifts or being a bar-room "gofer" – and the many women with whom he had hasty, violent and loving relationships. His biography must rework the same material as in those books.

However, Bukowski was primarily a poet. All his writing is versified into very short and unadorned lines or sentences. The titles of his 40-odd books tell much of the story: *Traces of Ordinary Madness*, *The Dogs Ran Away Like Wild Horses over the Hills, You Get So Alone at Times That It Just Makes Sense or Notes of a Dirty Old Man*. In a poem called *How to Be a Great Writer*, he names some of his inspirations (Hemingway, Céline, Dos-trovsky and Hamsun) and advises

"always be aware of the possibility of defeat; whether the reason for that defeat seems right or wrong".

He described the simple vitality of his work to a biographer like this: "Writing has to be blood on the line."

Howard Sounes set out to write a definitive biography of Bukowski without ever encountering him. He has interviewed widely and had access to previously unseen archives. New facts prick several myths. One important discovery is the truth about his escape from the postal service to write full-time at the age of 50.

He struck a famous deal with John Martin – founder of Black Sparrow Press – who guaranteed to pay his



living expenses for life in exchange for the rights to all his work. Sounes reveals that Bukowski knew he was about to be fired and so, ironically, was even more desperate than he ever revealed. However, within a month of "quitting" he had completed a draft of his first novel, *Post Office*, and the rest is, well, biography.

Sounes writes that, despite the acknowledged influence of John Fante's seminal novel, *Ask the Dust*, "Bukowski stands alone in modern American literature, unclassifiable and much imitated". He adds that Bukowski wrote about the everyday lives of less successful Americans living in cheap apartments and working at menial jobs", recognising that "human lives are often wretched" but that "life can also be beautiful, sexy and funny". All of this is true but does not quite get to the heart of it.

The core of Bukowski's writing is its articulation of almost complete disaffection and its dismissal of conventional life: the acceptance of so little by so many. Bukowski doesn't

condemn anyone except "phonies", but he refuses to ransom his life to a stifling, homogenous world and so he finds a way to exist among its refuse. It's a place where life has become elemental, where continuing with it is not taken for granted but rebuilt from nothing.

Bukowski's voice is insistent and affirming but it also has the humble durability of someone who won't stay down. Here – at the extremity of things, amid bruising lust and messy human loss – the value of his work lies.

The man who emerges from Sounes's work is one who shamelessly pursued his needs for beer, women and recognition – a man capable of tenderness, who always paid child support for his daughter and who resisted the seductions of belated, relished fame. This biography is an affectionate and thorough introduction that will not be rivalled for quite some time. Its effect is to revitalise rather than reduce Bukowski's work, poems and stories that help keep people alive.

GUY MANNES-ABBOTT

TUESDAY POEM

MIDDLE AGE
BY ROBERT WELLS

The temples, lakes and islands; rooms and roads:
When we go wandering, soon there's too much
To gather into consequence. Our touch
Has brushed too many stones; too many gods
Have played the host to us and had their claim
Shrugged off. Old pockets, worn-out wallets keep
The bills and tickets. In a drawer, a heap
Of shells recalls a place, perhaps a name.

Youth's body, like a broken statue, lies
Deep-buried with the meaning that it gave.
We cast about for something we can save
By which to save ourselves; more blank than wise
For all the miles that brought us to this ground,
Still ignorant of where value can be found.

This poem comes from Robert Wells's new collection, *Lusus* (Carcanet, £6.95)



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tion Boyars

Neville Bonner



Bonner celebrating with a boomerang his becoming the first Aboriginal in Australia's federal Parliament

NEVILLE BONNER was the first Aboriginal to be elected to Australia's federal parliament in its 98 years of existence. He went to Canberra, the capital, in 1971 as a member of the Senate, the upper house, for the conservative Liberal Party. It was an enormous breakthrough for him and his people. Aboriginal land rights were about to take off as an issue, and are still at the forefront of Australian politics almost 30 years later.

Bonner's triumph was short-lived. The party that adopted him dumped him in 1983 when the Liberals made it impossible for him to win re-election. Bonner's only crime was that he had become too radical for the party of the white establishment. But he had set a path in history for other indigenous Australians to follow, although only one so far has done so.

Bonner was born on an island in the Tweed River in northern New South Wales, but spent most of his life in Queensland. He was an elder of the Jagara tribe, a small, nuggety man with a rich growth of hair that became white and rather wild in his later years, but always made him look distinguished. His home was Ipswich, a town near Brisbane, made infamous by Pauline Hanson, the fringe politician who shot to prominence last year with a campaign attacking Asian immigration and state funding for Aborigines.

Bonner's political life lasted more than 20 years; he was still speaking out for his people in 1998. Hanson's rash, fierce blaze petered out after less than three years. As Neville Bonner died, the rump of Hanson's party in Queensland was imploding, its leader seemingly a spent force after losing her parliamentary seat last year.

Hanson-style bigotry among white Australians was a hurdle that Bonner overcame to win power. Once in parliament, though, he often had to face resentment from among his own people, especially the younger generation of Aboriginal activists - educated, fiery and politically savvy - who accused him of being too conservative, too unwilling to rock the boat to advance the Aboriginal cause.

It was really a difference more of means than ends. Bonner's manner reflected the era of his upbringing in the 1920s and 1930s, one of paternal racism in Australia when official policy was to assimilate Aborigines as far as possible into the then predominantly Anglo-Celtic society in the belief that their own customs and culture would eventually disappear. On the vast cattle and sheep properties of the outback, Aborigines were "looked after" by white farmers who gave them jobs as stockmen in return for their keep; and in towns and cities, people took in Aboriginal women as domestics for whatever they cared to pay them.

When Bonner attended a constitutional convention in Canberra a year ago, on the question of Australia's becoming a republic, he did so as a committed monarchist. All four other Aboriginal delegates called for a republic. To them, the British monarchy was a symbol not of freedom but of the start of a long, sad road of dispossession ever since Captain Arthur Phillip raised the Union flag on the shores of what is now Sydney in 1788. Bonner saw it differently. Would becoming a republic really make a difference to the lot of black Australians, he asked. No, he said, it would not.

"I cannot see how it will resolve the

question of land and access to land that troubles us... Fellow Australians, what is most hurtful is that after all we have learned together, after subjugating us and then freeing us, once again you are telling us that you know better. How dare you? How dare you?"

In his 76th year, and already battling the lung cancer that killed him a year later, Bonner the passionate advocate had come a long way from the more humble man of earlier years.

His mother, Julia Bell, was an Aboriginal, his father, Henry Bonner, an Englishman. Neville Bonner was fostered as a child, and went out working cutting

most conservative of all that party's branches, was happy to accept him in 1967 as a token black member or, as the party itself put it, "the first coloured member". In 1971, the Liberals appointed Bonner to fill a Queensland vacancy for the Senate, a federal house elected on a state-by-state basis.

At first Bonner toed the Liberal Party line on the big issues of the day. He did not speak out against the Vietnam war, nor did he support younger Aboriginal activists who modelled themselves on the American Black Power militants. But Bonner's Aboriginality eventually drove him to take a more radical

"The life of my beloved husband, from his birth in that 'blacks' camp' to the rank of senator in the national parliament, is a splendid example of Australia's democracy"

scrub and mustering cattle. Discrimination dogged him, as it did any black in rural Australia then, and sometimes even now. The Australian army declined to accept him when he tried to join up in 1940. The European climate was not suitable for Aborigines, they told him. Working in the bush, he suffered the indignity of eating and sleeping separately from the white stockmen. Such experiences awakened in him the need for change.

Yet he was conservative by nature, and, when he was later drawn to politics, the Liberal Party in Queensland, the

ical stand on indigenous rights. He put a motion to parliament calling on it to recognise that Aborigines were the prior owners of Australia.

That simple proposition was indeed radical, and threatening, in 1974. But in 1998 there is widespread public support for the same proposition to be written into the Australian constitution. It may be included in a forthcoming referendum on constitutional change to a republic.

By 1983, Bonner had stepped too far out of line as far as the Liberals were concerned. They dropped him to num-

ber three place of their Senate ticket for that year's election, ensuring his defeat. He ran as an independent and lost. "Neville felt rejected by the tribe he had chosen," said Peter Beattie, now Labor Party premier of Queensland, referring to the Liberals' dumping of Bonner. Bob Hawke, elected Labor prime minister in 1983, appointed Bonner to the board of the Australian Broadcasting Corporation. He was awarded the Order of Australia the following year.

Last month, he was too ill to attend a ceremony in Brisbane where the state Labor government named an office block after him. His second wife, Heather, spoke for him: "The life of my beloved husband, from his birth in that blacks' camp as it was so cruelly called, to the rank of senator of Queensland in the national parliament - he had only \$5 in his pocket - is a splendid example of Australia's democracy."

Bonner always wanted the mainstream political parties to adopt more Aborigines as candidates, but they have been slow to do so. It is fitting that, in the year of Bonner's death, Aden Ridgeway will take his seat in the Senate in July, the second Aboriginal to make it to federal parliament. It is even more fitting that Ridgeway, from New South Wales, got there by beating a candidate from Pauline Hanson's party.

ROBERT MILLIKEN

Neville Thomas Bonner, politician: born Ukerabah Island, New South Wales 28 March 1922; member of the Australian Senate 1971-83; AO 1984; twice married (five sons); died Ipswich, Queensland 5 February 1999.

GAZETTE

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

DEATHS

DUNSDAY: Lt-Col Randal, Lord Dunsday of Co Meath, on 6 February. Much-loved husband of Sheila and father of Edward and Andrew. Funeral private. Memorial service in Dublin at a later date.

HANDLEY: Roger Arlett, husband of Susan, born in 1929 in Bognor, died on 4 February 1999 in Bognor. "I feel my heart and my bones plucking my heartstrings; those harpstrings play a sad lament. And the big boat sail no more, along the Lagan shore, no more the horn, whistle blow." Roger Arlett, 1998. Commemorative Service at St Mary's Church, The Strand, Rottingdean. East Sussex, on Wednesday 10 February at 4.30pm. Flowers may be sent to Christopher Stringer Funeral Services, 67 High Street, Rottingdean, BN2 2TS. Tel: 01273 506000.

MORTON: Charles William Heaton. Suddenly on 5 February, aged 73. Much-loved husband of Ann, father of Thomas, Guy, Jonathan and Crispin and devoted grandfather. Family funeral at St Helen's Church, Brant Broughton, on Thursday 11 February at 11am. Memorial service in Southwell Minster on Tuesday 2 March at 2.30pm. Donations if wished to the British Heart Foundation.

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS are charged at £5.00 a line (WAT extra).

BIRTHDAYS

Mr Norman Adams, painter and ceramic sculptor, 72; Mr Ryland Davies, operatic tenor, 55; Air Commandant Barbara Ducat-Amos, former Matron-in-Chief, RAF Nursing Service, 78; Miss Mia Farrow, actress, 54; Dr Garret Fitzgerald, former Prime Minister, Irish Republic, 78; Mr Paul Flynn MP, 64; Mr Bernard Gallacher, golfer, 50; Mr Robert Gordon, ambassador to Burma (Union of Myanmar), 47; Miss Kathryn Grayson, actress and singer, 77; Dr George Guest, organist, 75; Sir Robert Johnson, High Court judge, 66; Miss Carole King, singer and songwriter, 57; Mr Sandy Lytle, golfer, 41; Sir Donald Miller, former chairman, Scottish Power, 72; Dame Annette Penhaligon, local councillor, 53; Sir Hayden Phillips, Permanent Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department, 56; Miss Amanda Roocroft, operatic soprano, 33; Professor Michael Sterling, Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Brunel University, 53; Miss Janet Suzman, actress, 60; Mr Clive Swift, actor, 63; Lord Williams of Elvel, 66.

ANNIVERSARIES

Births: Daniel Bernoulli, mathematician, 1700; Antho-

ny Hope (Sir Anthony Hope Hawks), novelist, 1883; Mrs Patrick Campbell (née Beatrice Stella Tanner), actress, 1865; Amy Lowell, poet, 1874; Alba Maria Johanna Berg, composer, 1888; Ronald Colman, actor, 1891; Brendan Behan, playwright, 1923.

Deaths: Nevil Maskelyne, astronomer royal, 1811; Francis Darnby painter, 1861; Fedor Mikhailovich Dostoevsky, novelist, 1881; Sir Frederick Truby King, mothercraft specialist, 1938; Elizabeth Mary Russell (Beauchamp), Countess Russell ("Elizabeth"), novelist, 1941; George Norman Douglas, novelist and essayist, 1952; Alexander Nikolayevich Benois, painter and theatre designer, 1960; Sergei Vladimirovich Ilyushin, aircraft designer, 1977; Bill Haley (William John Clifton Haley), rock musician, 1981; Yuri Vladimirovich Andropov, Russian leader, 1984.

On this day: Bishop John Hooper, burned at the stake for heresy 1555; Burke and Wills, Australian explorers, reached the estuary of the Flinders river, 1861; Verdi's opera *Fulstaff* was first performed, Milan, 1893; Sybil Thorndike made her London debut in *The Marquise*, 1908; the British Military Service Act (conscription) came into force, 1916; the Balkan

NATIONAL GALLERY: Kathleen Adler; "Monet (II): Monet and Impressionism", 1pm. VICTORIA AND ALBERT MUSEUM: Miranda Neave, "English Goldsmiths: Paul de Lamerie", 2pm. BRITISH MUSEUM: Marjorie Caygill, "Architects and Antiquities: the British Museum building", 11.30am. ROYAL SOCIETY OF ARTS (at Leeds University): Clare Short MP, "The UK Development Assistance Programme", 5.30pm (telephone 0113 233 6706 for tickets).

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Princess Royal, Patron, the Basic Skills Agency, attends the British Council International Seminar at the Strand Palace Hotel, London WC2; and officially opens Moorcroft School, Hillingdon, Uxbridge. The Duke of Kent, President, Edexcel Foundation, attends the Edexcel Student of the Year Awards at Drapers Hall, London EC2.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

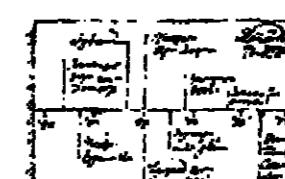
The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am.

LECTURES

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LUNCHEONS

Mid-Atlantic Club / English Speaking Union: Mr Klaus-Peter Klaiber, Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Nato, was guest of honour and speaker at a luncheon held yesterday by the Mid-Atlantic Club at the English Club, London W1. He spoke on "Nato at 50: where do we go from here?" Mr Alan Lee Williams, Director, Atlantic Council, was in the chair.



HISTORICAL NOTES

DAVID CRACKANTHORPE

The monumental avenues of Nîmes

THE LOCAL forms of the Resistance in France were as various as the scenery and the people themselves. There were two necessary conditions - a terrain apt for refuge, and support among the population. Daring exploits were carried out in towns, but Maquis groups working from forests and hills could do more damage. And they depended for supplies on the rural community.

In the Cévennes and the hinterland of Nîmes both conditions existed. A land of steep valleys covered in unbroken forest, remote farmhouses at the end of rough tracks; main roads winding slowly into the Massif Central, ready block or ambushed. And a population with a tradition of resistance to tyranny. Nîmes is the historical centre of French Protestantism in the south: the hills were the refuge of the armies of the humble who held to the reformed faith after the revocation of the Edict of Nantes in 1685, defeating the dragoons of the king. Inscribed on their emblematic shield was the word *Resistez* - resistance was in the bones of the people.

Last month, he was too ill to attend a ceremony in Brisbane where the state Labor government named an office block after him. His second wife, Heather, spoke for him: "The life of my beloved husband, from his birth in that blacks' camp as it was so cruelly called, to the rank of senator of Queensland in the national parliament - he had only \$5 in his pocket - is a splendid example of Australia's democracy."

Bonner always wanted the mainstream political parties to adopt more Aborigines as candidates, but they have been slow to do so. It is fitting that, in the year of Bonner's death, Aden Ridgeway will take his seat in the Senate in July, the second Aboriginal to make it to federal parliament. It is even more fitting that Ridgeway, from New South Wales, got there by beating a candidate from Pauline Hanson's party.

ROBERT MILLIKEN

Neville Thomas Bonner, politician: born Ukerabah Island, New South Wales 28 March 1922; member of the Australian Senate 1971-83; AO 1984; twice married (five sons); died Ipswich, Queensland 5 February 1999.

Maquis proceeded less scientifically.

Between 17 and 27 August 1944, the German forces streamed along the roads of the Languedoc towards the Rhône valley and the north, attacked on their way by Maquis on the ground and the RAF from the air. In the night of 24 August, the German garrison of Nîmes stole away, leaving the town to itself. The Maquis of the railwaymen, getting wind of this in the Cévennes foothills, piled into a goods train and drove it into town with the dawn. They set up headquarters in the chief hotel, took over the local press, in which they announced themselves as "the occupying forces of the town of Nîmes", and raided the vaults of the Bank of France, to the tune of 250 million francs. "Who among the simple citizens of Nîmes at the time could doubt," asks Jacques-Augustin Bally in *La Libération*, "that the Communists were the victors of the war and that theirs was the camp to join?" For many years after the war, they continued to dominate local politics.

Out in the country, the other Maquis fought the retreating armies, with heavy losses on both sides. The Maquis were armed mainly by *parachutes* carried out by the RAF in favour of groups whose politics were approved. These did not include the Communists. The British intelligence services

have been accused of sacrificing some of the Maquis under their influence, inducing them to expose themselves to attack by ostentatious exercises and clearing of supposed landing grounds in the forests, as part of the campaign to make an invasion was imminent along the Languedoc coast. In the reign of Queen Anne the Huguenots waited vainly in their hills for sight of English sail in the Golfe du Lion. The most brilliant of all the Maquis groups - Bir-Hakeim - was massacred on 27 May, any wounded survivors being tortured before their execution.

Horrors multiplied in town and country as the end approached. In the hideous cells of the Milice in Nîmes was found a wooden box filled with drawn toe- and fingernails. In the interim before the establishment of the new government, ferocious and some say indiscriminate vengeance swept through towns and villages. The trees along the avenues of Nîmes where captured resisters were hanged long survived as monuments; today, many of them are scheduled for felling and replacement in time for the millennium. The story of the Resistance as the last survivors fade away, will never be fully told.

David Crackanthorpe is the author of *'Stolen Marches'* (Headline, £10)

Use of confidential material by sentencer

TUESDAY LAW REPORT

9 FEBRUARY 1999

R v X;

Court of Appeal, Criminal Division (Lord Justice Rose, Vice-President, Mr Hughes and Judge Stephens QC)

1 February 1999

been told something potentially adverse to the defendant without his knowledge. On general principles, a defendant was entitled to see documents put before him about a defendant who had given assistance to the police.

Gordon Ross (Registrar of Criminal Appeals) for the appellant; Campagne Lloyd-Jacob (CPS) for the Crown.

Mr Justice Hughes said that in the present case the judge had been presented with a written confidential report made by a police officer indicating that the defendant had given information to the police. Counsel for the Crown had been instructed to make it to the defendant. It is even more fitting that Ridgeway, from New South Wales, got there by beating a candidate from Pauline Hanson's party.

Political in-fighting within the Resistance was endemic from the time the Communists began to join, after Hitler's invasion of Russia in 1941, and organised infiltration of the movement by the Committee of Liberation was approved. These did not include the Communists. The British intelligence services

had simply supplied material for the judge at the defendant's request. It would no doubt be possible in an appropriate case for a defendant to ask for an adjournment for further consideration to be given to the preparation of documents: otherwise, if the defendant did not accept what the document said, his remedy was not to rely on it.

Except in very unusual circumstances it would be neither necessary nor desirable that such a document should contain the kind of details which would attract a public interest immunity application. If, exceptionally, the document did contain such information, the usual rules about the conduct of public interest immunity applications, and in particular the Crown Court (Criminal Proceedings and Investigation Act 1996) (Disclosure) Rules 1997 would apply.

Absent any consideration of public interest immunity, such a document should be shown to the defence, who would no doubt discuss its contents with the defendant. It should be emphasised that that was not because it would be necessary to debate its contents, but so that there should be no room for any unfounded suspicion that the judge had

If the judge did take the document into consideration he would doubtless say no more than that, in accordance with present practice, he had taken into consideration all the information about the defendant with which he had been provided.

KATE O'HANLON, Barrister

IN HIS book *Woody Allen*, John Baxter thanks somebody for the loan of a New York apartment, which "gave me the chance to live and work at the heart of Woody Allen's milieu". Uh? Not only does he relocate the Carlyle, but describes that splendid singer and pianist Bobby Short as "chubby" in the same paragraph.

Will Baxter be as lithesome and working - at his age? The sour biography induces *anhedonia* - the inability to feel pleasure, from

WORDS

CHR

ian for the
real world

Africa is where we live

Seydou Keita portrays his fellow Africans as real people. Not as anthropological curiosities. By Jason Oddy

I first saw the work of the Malian photographer Seydou Keita five years ago in the prestigious Fondation Cartier in Paris. I remember feeling slightly humbled by his lush and generous black-and-white portraits that lent a rare air of dignity to their African subjects. I remember also wondering why I had never come across any of these remarkable pictures before, none of which had been taken later than 1962.

At the time, I did not realise that Seydou Keita was a latecomer to the world stage. Until the French art historian André Magnin tracked him down in 1991 with the help of three anonymous prints he had seen in an exhibition in New York, Keita was unknown outside West Africa. And even there he had almost sunk into obscurity. His studio where he produced the body of work for which he is now so justly celebrated had, at the prompting of the then socialist government, closed its doors in 1963 when he was appointed official photographer of the new Malian state.

But in the 15 years prior to his conscription, he was constantly in demand. When Magnin first went to meet Keita at his home in Bamako, Mali's creaking capital city, he found the septuagenarian photographer sitting on an archive of some 30,000 negatives from his studio days. Since Keita, working with a 12x18 cm plate camera, only took a single shot of most of his subjects, this vast collection is a testament to the phenomenal success he enjoyed during that period.

Earlier this year, with the Barbican's current show *Africa by Africa* approaching, I decided it was my turn to visit him. His pictures were undoubtedly going to be the exhibition's centrepiece, and I wanted to meet the person behind the work. More precisely, I wanted to find out just how it was he managed to produce such a consistently telling series of images.

It was Ramadan when I turned up at the labyrinthine mud-walled compound where Seydou Keita lives with his extended family. I was greeted by an unaffected and amiable old man who, although evidently suffering from his month long journial fast, still spent the best part of two hot January afternoons telling me about his life as a portrait photographer.

By the early Fifties, his reputation had begun to spread right across West Africa. Queues would often form outside his door and he soon developed a system to cope with the volume of business. When you arrived at his studio, you either chose to wear your own clothes or decided on one of a variety of outfits that he provided. Tacked to the wall were pictures of previous clients in a whole range of poses. You pointed to the one you liked



Labours of love: an untitled composition from 1956. Keita (below) has an unerring eye for form and pattern

best and Keita would duplicate it. The whole process could take as little as 10 minutes.

The portraits that emerged were a sort of collaboration between the sitter's fantasy and the photographer's prowess, and they remain a lasting document of Bamako life in the decade-and-a-half before independence. But rather than being a straightforward chronicle of any objective reality, they are, more accurately, a record of a reflective reality. For these photographs show us the way people wish to see themselves, in front of the mirror and in front of the lens. In one picture, a woman has brought her sewing machine with her. In another, a man stands proudly next to his new bicycle.

It is no coincidence that the majority of Keita's clients were young people. In Fifties Africa, being photographed was itself indicative of a modern sensibility. With independence looming, an emerging generation was looking for new post-colonial role models. The apparent desire of many of them to have their pictures taken wearing the latest Western fashions or surrounded by props such as the watches, radios, telephones and

scooters that Keita himself provided, reinforces the impression that during this transitional period in their continent's history, young Africans put their faith in the trappings of a modernity that appeared to be the most promising option for advancing life after European rule.

The candour of these portraits, which expose the aspirations and beliefs of the people who posed in them, is what allied to Keita's unerring eye for form and pattern, lends the photographs such power. This knack for combining the ingenuous with the aesthetic arose from the singular relationship that existed between Keita and his customers, which, as he explained it, always saw him doing his utmost to realise their ambitions by "finding the most perfect, flattering poses".

In another context, say Annie Liebowitz's ego-carrying portraits of celebrities, such an approach sheds little light on the inner world of her subjects. But the simple and frank decorative strategies Keita employed during what was such a critical moment in his country's history produced the contrary result.

It cannot have escaped the attention of the organisers of *Africa by Africa* that the exhibition shows



alongside it, Picasso and Photography: The Dark Mirror, containing several pictures of Africans taken by Europeans that stand in sharp opposition to the work of the African photographers on the Barbican's lower level. Take the two postcards by the turn of the century French photographer Edmond Fortier. In each, a nearly naked Senegalese girl self-consciously faces the camera. "Girls from the None tribe wear only a vestige of clothing" reads the caption stamped on one of the cards. While such an apparently objective approach might be superficially informative, on closer inspection this attempt to classify the native

populace tells us more about Western prejudices (in this case "All savages are immodest") than it does about the people in front of the lens.

What is manifestly lacking in these and many other examples of colonial and even the neo-colonial photography of our age, is any genuine relationship between the photographer and his subject. Instead, the camera is a pseudoscientific tool which, in seeking to objectify people, in seeing them as they never see themselves, neglects its fundamental duty—that of allowing any trace of their own subjective reality to emerge.

By contrast, each of Keita's pictures is, in his own words, a work of "love". In none of the portraits on show at the Barbican is there the merest hint of the non-consensual, that hallmark of so much of the intrusive photography that Africa has had to suffer. Rather his work exhibits an opposing tendency, one which I believe is the consequence of an instinctive sympathy between photographer and sitter; itself the result of a shared historical experience which means that both parties tacitly understand what had to be expressed, namely the assertion of a personal truth that contained

within it the germs of a post-colonial political consciousness.

After my second and final meeting with Seydou Keita, I left Bamako for Djenné, a town my guidebook described as "the most satisfying" in the Sahel. It was a tourist trap. At lunch one day I sat next to a German photographer who spotted a postcard for sale. "This is one of mine," he told his companion triumphantly. Once they had left, I went to inspect it. It was a typical postcard with two Tuareg tribesmen walking, backs to the camera, into the desert. His choice of words seemed fitting. Because approached from behind, most probably unaware that they had even been photographed, the men in the picture had fallen captive to the photographer's lens. From a commercial, aesthetic, and who knows, even spiritual point of view, he now possessed that moment of their lives. And they had not been involved in the process at all.

Africa by Africa: Barbican until 28 March; £6, £4 conc. Open Mon, Thur - Sat 10am - 6.45pm; Tue 10am - 5.45pm; Wed 10am - 7.45pm; Sun & Bank Holidays 12pm - 6.45pm. Tel 0171-382 7105

Heavy weather

THEATRE

THE CAUCASIAN
CHALK CIRCLE
LIBRARY THEATRE
MANCHESTER

CHRIS HONER, directing a major Brecht play for the third consecutive year, dissents from the implications of the famous Brecht "alienation effect". In the excellent programme, he reprints the impeccably Bert Brecht poem, "Speech to Danish working-class actors on the art of observation", which insists not on type and role, but on particularity. "There is the man who is paying his taxes; he is not like Every man who pays taxes." Honer wants to show Brecht's characters as individuals, and is not afraid to claim that an audience should be emotionally involved in his plays.

Unlike his earlier, superb *Galileo*, this play presents problems. True, in the peasant girl Gruska, who neglects self-interest to save the baby abandoned by the clothes-crazed Governor's Wife as she flees an insurgency, and Azdak, the village slyster catapulted into the chair of District Judge, the play has two of Brecht's characters who most exceed depersonalised function. Azdak's character cannot be confined within such bounds – it is a variable no structure can anticipate. But we wait half the play for Azdak, and meanwhile Gruska's perilous flight, pursued by the ironshirts, is composed of instructive episodes and a series of minor characters.

It is here that Brecht's "speech" is most to be heeded, but unfortunately hardly any accurate observation is in evidence that would individualise the characters. The production is caught between stylisation and realistic vignette, and is consequently confusing. Michael Pavlinka's designs add to this. Predominantly white and, in Ace McCarron's decisive shafts of side-lighting, so striking against the dark background, the costumes mix peasant layering and *kokeshi* voluminousness in a way that makes the actors seem cumbersome, and the stage cluttered. The essential lightness and speed are, so far, lacking (I saw a preview).

Yet Kati Williamson's clear Gruska is consistently involving, and Rachel Smith's screeching and fluttering as the Governor's Wife does make stylisation work. David Fielder, as the anarchic Azdak, forever nursing a dog-end in his palm, scuttles over the stage like a demented but unlikely tarantula. Fourteen actors and two musicians for Brecht in these times seem untold riches, and Chris Honer's pertinacity and vision are admirable. But in the usual four weeks' rehearsal, even he cannot bring a company through a piece as stylistically demanding as this.

JEFFREY WAINWRIGHT
To 6 March (box office 0161-236 7105)

How to grow old gracefully

OPERA

DER ROSENKAVALIER
SCOTTISH OPERA

put a strain on the Sophie there, the brightly focused Lisa Milne, who had to seem younger and prettier, and on the whole balance of the action, for the opera is chiefly about a woman who sees her youth slipping away.

This strain was worsened initially by a conductor, Richard Armstrong, who held the rhythms too tightly corseted. He relaxed a little as things progressed. The effect was to give a special poignancy to the end of Act 1, in which Rodgers wistfully recalled her teenage

years; the soft warmth of the voice, the bewitching smile that hovered always near her lips, the quiet self-possession, gave the lightest of touches to this moment of pathos, a bit shallow but nevertheless heartfelt. As the grand patrician, she was less credible, and you worried that she might lose control of the stage of dubious characters in Act 3.

Indeed, it was a bit of a surprise when this young, pretty thing was able to command the boy Octavian out of the room at the close of Act 1. For this Octavian (Stella Dallas' sex) was a tall, gallant, fiery character with flashing eyes and a voice that was vibrant and comprehensive. It was a totally

convincing portrayal of the impulsive young male.

If Rodgers shed a new light on the *Marschallin*, then Peter Rose gave a new meaning to Baron Ochs. A heavyweight baritone, he was able to give force and power to what is usually a boorish pantaloons; you felt for him when he longed for the unsophisticated country life in a Vienna of tricks and conspiracies.

It was impressive how closely these fine principals had worked with the producer, David McVicar. Any producer can get the chorus to group well, but to get soloists to turn their heads away at just the moment when the harmony clouds, or to slow in mid-ges-

ture when Strauss suddenly imposes a piano, takes real authority. McVicar had designed his own set, an elegant room with heavy drapes and candles, and Tanya McCallin provided sumptuously coloured costumes.

There were some precious vignettes: Joanna Campion was a snakey Aminta, Phyllis Cunnam, a ludicrously shocked Marianne, and Harry Ward, in the non-singing part of Ochs' bastard Leopold, was a deliciously greasy sloven. There was plenty to admire in this production; even the audience at the Theatre Royal, Glasgow, showed some real enthusiasm for once.

RAYMOND MONROE

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7th Ave	4th St
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100th Ave	W. 90th St
101st Ave	W. 91st St
102nd Ave	W. 92nd St
103rd Ave	W. 93rd

Cool, calm, disconnected

Black lines. Luminous colour. Domestic scenes. Patrick Caulfield's pictures are very simple and very strange. By Tom Lubbock

A Patrick Caulfield retrospective misses the point, I think. The main point of any Caulfield picture is that it should be the neatest thing in the room. Wherever it hangs, a Caulfield provides its surroundings with a kind of ideal focus, holds up to them a dream-image of clarity and tidiness. It should probably hang in the sort of space that Caulfield's art has made its own: restaurants, foyers, the modern office or apartment. It should hang singly.

And so to hang a Caulfield in an art gallery: a gallery moreover where all the other objects around it are themselves other pictures by Caulfield - obviously, the effect will be lost. You'll get a total neatness stalemate. Or some of the pictures will even start to look, by comparison, a bit messy.

This is just bad luck. A retrospective is the standard way of honouring an artist of Caulfield's years and achievement. There are nearly four decades of painting on show at the Hayward Gallery, and his name has been famous for most of them. It's bad luck that his pictures aren't designed for their own company.

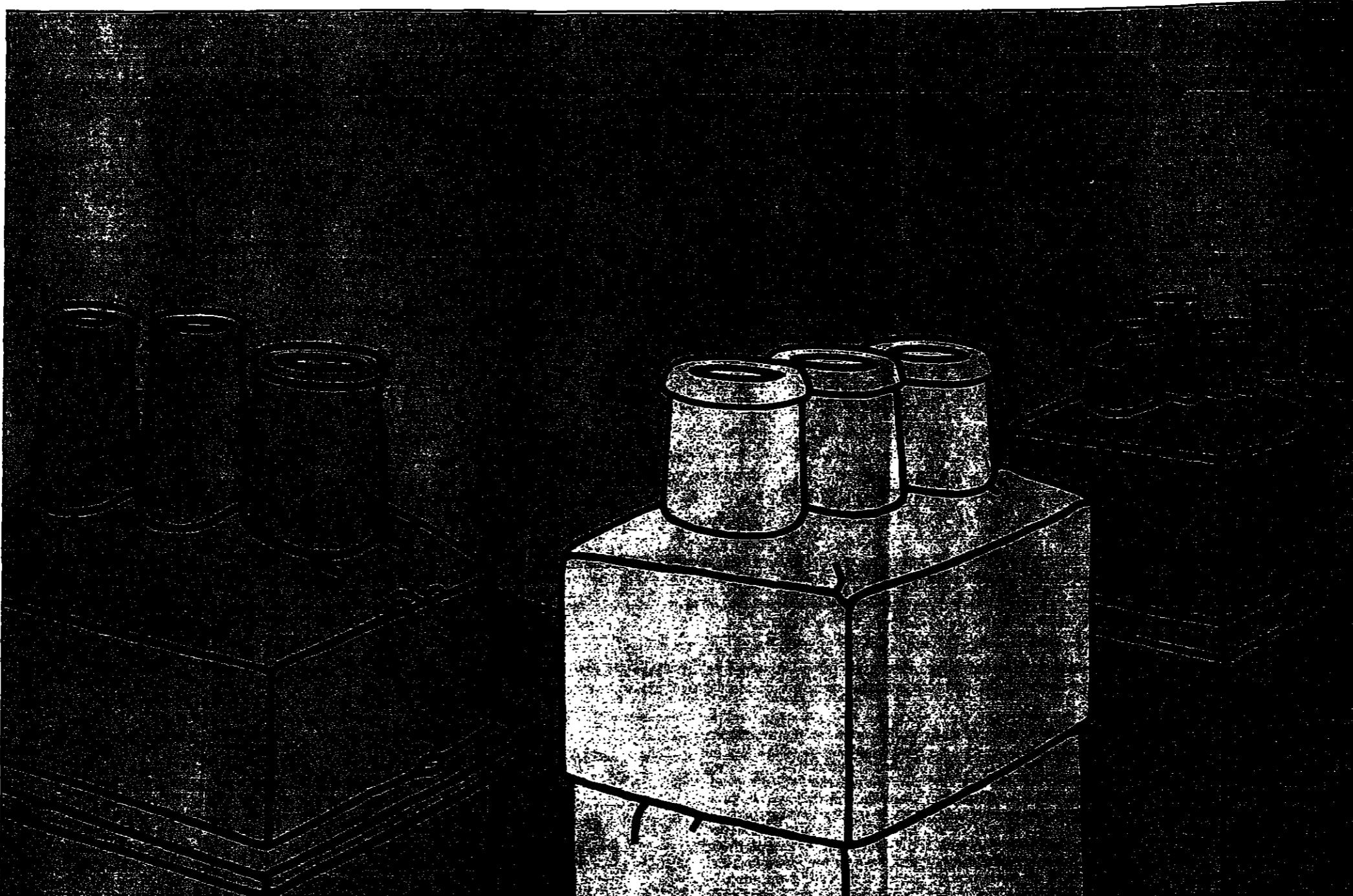
Their un-retrospectability needn't reflect badly on them, though. Caulfield's art requires a quasi-domestic, non-art environment to work in - and this is an interesting thing about it. But, of course, that's likely also to mean a privately-owned environment. (Leaf through the Hayward's catalogue, and note which pictures are in private hands: those are the Caulfields in proper homes.) So what about public honour? And public access?

Good questions. After all, Caulfield is something of a public favourite, a one-time "pop" artist who really was. In his mid-twenties, in the early Sixties, he invented a style that became proverbial. An advert could use it, confident that most people would recognise it, even if they couldn't name its creator. A bit of Leger, a bit of Mondrian, a bit of Minyan fresco and commercial illustration combined to produce the most distinctive British graphic since John Flaxman's neo-Greek outline drawings two centuries ago. And like Flaxman's plain penmanship, the Caulfield manner wasn't exactly personal.

A thick black line, always of the same, steady thickness, defines each object and detail. It's a style that stresses and isolates things; or rather, insulates. It's a world made snug, outline as lagging. It's also a world made equal. Whatever is described gets identical treatment, and this can give funny results. Very small and thin things - a stem, a bit of grit - are established with outlines thicker than themselves.

In fact, the charm of this Sixties style is its perfect insensitivity. It's as if some original picture - with a wide, various and responsive range of marks - had been put through a programme that recognised only one sort of line. Sometimes Caulfield makes a pointed joke about what's lost in his translation. In *View of the rooftops*, say, or in *Bend in the Road*, you find some single, separate little squiggles. They're evidently meant to stand for cracks in the brickwork, or divots in the ground, and you can see that in a more responsive style that's what they would mean. But here, with their even widths and square ends, they're as blankly non-descript as a road-sign. They deliberately strain depiction.

At the same time, this world of even, definite edges is filled in with floods of



'Across the rooftops' (1965) and, below, 'Pottery' (1969): Caulfield's work is a variety act that stops short of showing off

even, luminous colour, which always stops clean at the outlines; but often spreads over individual things. In *Dining Recess*, a whole room with its table and chairs is blocked in with a uniform grey - a scheme that's only broken by a large spherical lamp (bright warm white) and a window of evening sky (dull violet). So while the outlines stress separate objects, the colour can override this, asserting (contrarily) large units of sameness. This is playful and mysterious. Also, through sheer arrangement of flat colours, Caulfield can introduce not just luminosity but a sense of realistic lighting - oddly, as these images are, of course, without any directionalised light and shade.

So a world made clear and strange, formulated, set at a remove, straining at the real. And the best work that Caulfield made in this style, it seems to me, the work that turns its economies to maximum impact, is not a painting, and so not in this retrospective. It's a book-work of 21 screen-prints that obliquely illustrate poems by Jules Laforgue. But you hardly need the

poems to get the point. The images' strength is in their smallness, their close-cropping, and that they're a series.

They show a life in cut-off details: a glimpse of sky through parted curtains; a menu card; a bedside lamp; railings; a clock; a glass of water on a window sill. They're details whose inconsequence is poignant. They're the kind of minutiae that, in extreme emotion, the mind lights on, latches on to, holds for always - the kitchen tap that will emblemise for ever the first night or the last row. This is the subject Caulfield's detached intensity was made for. You can see a set of these prints in a general retrospective of Caulfield prints at the Alan Cristea Gallery in Cork Street. Or there's another set that's going round the country as a Hayward Gallery Touring Exhibition, and it can be seen at the Howden Park Centre in Livingston, West Lothian, from next week.

One thing these Laforgue images do is answer a question that Caulfield's images often leave begging: why? Why is he so interested in this world of contemporary



and slightly tacky accessories, design, and cuisine? What do these objects and environments mean to him? Are they just the kind of things he paints? It looks

increasingly like that, just as his paintings as time goes on seem more and more to be ways of - very elegantly, very intelligently - filling up a canvas.

The Caulfield style of the Sixties was, as I say, not exactly personal. It suppressed his individuality (though not quite entirely; that was another of its vital tensions). It was certainly very consciously adopted. And for all its seeming uniformity, it was capable of considerable play. So why not adopt a few more styles, and mix them together, and generally up the gamesmanship? That's been Caulfield's course since the mid-Seventies.

He's developed a repertoire of depictive devices and accomplishments. There's outline-less silhouette, and very high-finishing photo-realism, and a looser, more impressionistic photo-realism, and exact imitations of patterns and textures (wall-paper, woodgrain), and flat shapes which mean cast shadows, or patches of cast light, or sometimes just an abstract shape. And there's some low relief too. All these things intersect and overlap to create different levels of reality and *trompe l'oeil* effects and elusively paradoxical spaces.

True, this variety act never becomes stupidly show-off. It's really quite tactful. On the other hand, it doesn't seem very pointful, and I admit I was finding it hard by the end to keep my eyes on them. But they're still as neat as can be, and perhaps the real problem is public exhibition. Seeing them in relation to the surroundings of a more private setting might make all the difference. As for public access, there's a simple answer - posters, large and high-quality reproduction, with wide distribution. Take one home: that's the best retrospective this sort of art could ask for.

Patrick Caulfield: Hayward Gallery, South Bank, until 11 April; £6, concs £4. Print Retrospective: Alan Cristea Gallery, 31 Cork Street; tomorrow to 11 March; closed Sat pm and Sun, free. *The Poems of Jules Laforgue*: Howden Park Centre, Livingston, West Lothian; 10 Feb to 11 March; closed Sun, free. Then touring to Brecon and Taunton

THE INDEPENDENT COLLECTOR

JOHN WINDSOR'S GUIDE TO COLLECTING CONTEMPORARY ART. THIS WEEK: DAVE MORRIS



IS IT a pile of pigs or a heap of aubergines? Are the pointy bits snouts, stalks or nipples? Is there a buttock or two in there?

Dave Morris's five-foot-tall sculpture in Ancaster freestone evokes what artists these days call a "multiple response". At first glance, it could be any of several different things. The way out of the confusion is to laugh. Many people do. Morris is not the least offended.

Humour is rare in British sculpture. You can be just as confused by the sculpture of Moore, Hepworth or Caro without getting so much as a titter out of it.

When the giggles subside, the eye focuses on Morris's voluptuous sags and bulges - the weight distribution (to use a dry term) that occurs whenever nature wraps bulky organisms in sacks so that they can pile themselves in heaps without getting tangled up.

Gravity, his sculpture wittily observes, tends to mould piles of fat pigs or piles of ripe aubergines in the same sinuous way. One squashed on the bottom row wearily drops its snout - or is it its stalk? The one lying on top of it raises itself, as if expecting to have its back scratched. Another nuzzles its stalk into its neighbour's soft flank.

The sculpture's title, *Body Boat*, is little help in deciphering what the bodies are. But the base is actually a storm-tossed vessel - recognisable to those who know Morris's recent work as part of his cargo theme - and the bodies, as a few seconds' investigation will

confirm, are clearly aubergines. Pigs? Breasts? Whatever gave you that idea?

Body Boat is one of three in his "Boat" series, begun last year as he approached 50. Aubergines and chillies in seagoing vessels made their debut only four years ago, in a series of six of his sculptures called "South American Trade".

His work before that, although also concerned with mechanics and loading, was quite different. In the 1980s he used discarded builders' timber to make heavy, somewhat

threatening yet absurd constructions, such as *Walnut Holding Device* and *Conker Boring Machine* - references to the megalomania of Victorian engineers and to the subsequent decay of heavy industry. He was also inspired by the notebooks of Uncle Jack, a print compositior whose device to speed the production of biscuits was adopted by Huntley & Palmer in the years before the war.

A couple of years ago, he was making giant "still lifes" from

timber and laminates - English ones with wooden crockery, cutlery and bottles, and Moroccan ones with oversize versions of the sugar hammers typical of that country.

He would be better known, and his work more expensive, but for his ruthless habit of abandoning themes for new ones, instead of consolidating them - and for his devotion to teaching. For the past 10 years he has been subject leader in sculpture at Loughborough University. His current theme of travel and cargo dates back to his early years among the granite hills of Malvern in Worcestershire, his 10-mile, twice-daily bus journey to school through the bombed industrial wasteland of Birmingham - and his recurring thought that exotic vegetables could be grown on bomb-sites, under glass, instead of shipped from distant continents.

His boat forms, he says, are metaphors for travel, "whilst the fruit or vegetable forms can be read in the actual or as metaphors for people". So if you thought you saw a nipple, do not feel ashamed.

A retrospective of Morris's work of the past four years is at the Diorama Arts Centre, 24 Osnaburgh Street, London NW1, 22 March-1 April (0171-916 5467/5468). *Body Boat* is on show at the Fitters Centre, Staunton Harold, Ashby De La Zouch, Leics, to 31 March (01332 855408). Prices: *Body Boat* £2,850; *Mixed Cargo* £2,750. Works at the Diorama are mostly in the £1,000-£1,600 range

Strictly ballroom

REVIEW
SILVIO WOLF
ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL
LONDON



The Elsewhere'

on impassively at the live entertainment before them. The space is vast, its towering white pillars calling to mind the impressive height and scale of those in Egyptian temples, its emptiness and noise accentuated by the subdued, adult presence of those clustered around its edges.

Fortunately, there is an accompanying CD-Rom, being presented as an artwork in its own right, which does flesh out the rather bare bones of the exhibit. At the click of a mouse, you can access information about the RFH and the artist, which includes his biography and examples of his previous works, and you can navigate the installation itself in true playground fashion.

The constant light and looped sound of *The Elsewhere*, however, is exhausting after a while. Twenty-four hours of this drip of constant noise would surely send you mad, particularly as the calm, empty setting should be silent and peaceful. And does this treatment of the Ballroom mean that all spaces are potential works of art? If that's the case, a reconstruction of my living-room, with an accompanying tape of all the arguments of the successive neighbours who have lived in the flat upstairs, would count. After all, as Wolf argues, "the place becomes the event".

KATE MIKEHL

traces and memory of the place, but with giving a new form, life and presence to the vanished community of girls who lived there," he says. A series of bemused-looking, dark-suited men wandered into the middle installation while I was there, stared at the ceiling as if that held all the answers and then beat a hasty retreat, each and every one looking distinctly uncomfortable. But then, a walk around the exhibit is slightly unnerving, surrounded as it is on three sides by the bar area, the customers of which stare

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Rating: By Tom Lubbock

HEALTH

The red rash of romantics



Scarlet fever used to be a killer. Today it is easily treated, but a recent outbreak surprised one family. By Lizzie Enfield

A few weeks before Christmas my two-year-old daughter and I were both struck down with what I thought was a particularly nasty bout of flu. Alarmed by Christina's temperature and the fact that she was refusing to eat or drink, my husband called the doctor. She was suitably impressed by the child's declining health and, since she was in the house, agreed to have a quick look at me. I was fully expecting to be told to get up and tend to my ailing daughter (like a proper mother), but instead was told to stay put as I was suffering from scarlet fever.

I must admit to having been secretly pleased that I had a genuine reason for feeling utterly lousy, though somewhat alarmed to have succumbed to a disease which, as far as I was concerned, had all but died out and affected only small children. While we stayed in bed and watched the Christmas schedule of black-and-white movies (in which the heroines tended to die of scarlet fever), I learnt that there had been an outbreak of the disease in Sussex, with 14 cases reported in the Brighton and Hove area within a month, compared to just one case in the previous year.

Dr Angela Iversen, the area's consultant in communicable disease control, says that such a rise is not unusual but does give some cause for concern. "The disease is cyclical so numbers tend to go up and down. The danger with scarlet fever is that, because its early symptoms are similar to a sore throat, doctors may not prescribe antibiotics immediately, and if it isn't treated there can be severe complications."

The earliest historical record of a scarlet fever outbreak was made in 1543 in Sicily. A century later, on 10 November 1664, Samuel Pepys wrote in his diary: "my little girlie Susan is fallen sick of the measles, we fear, or, at least, of a scarlett fever." Whether there had been earlier outbreaks of the disease is not known, but it continued to occur in Europe and North America cropping up frequently in literature.

One of my childhood heroines, Beth in *Little Women*, caught scarlet fever and, though she survived the incident, she was so weakened by the disease that she never

fully recovered. As a rather bookish child I always quite liked the idea of being struck down with what I considered to be a "romantic" disease but, having suffered an apparently mild dose of scarlet fever, it's an experience I'm not anxious to repeat.

Characterised by a sore throat, a high temperature and a rough red rash, scarlet fever is far less common and less threatening than it used to be. In the 19th century it was still widespread and dangerous, especially among small children. In the 1860s, the mortality rate from scarlet fever was 972 per million of population. Nowadays there are virtually no fatal cases, but about 4,000 to 5,000 people a year contract the disease in England and Wales.

It is caused by a type of *streptococcus* (bacterium) that also causes sore throats, swollen glands, ear infections and tonsillitis. Scarlet fever is just one form that a *streptococcus* infection can take. According to Dr Julius Weinberg, consultant epidemiologist for the Public Health Laboratory, the bacteria are common and many people carry them in their throats with no ill-effects whatsoever. "What causes some people to get scarlet fever and not others is not completely understood. It may be that the host becomes more susceptible because they have flu or are run down, for example."

My initial symptoms were apparently typical: a sore throat, accompanied by fever and headache. Small children often also suffer from vomiting and nausea. The characteristic rash usually appears within two days on the neck, chest and back, and may spread to the rest of the body. It results from a reaction to a toxin, produced by certain strains of the *streptococcus*, which is absorbed by the blood and, if not treated, can be severe complications.

The face also becomes flushed and the tongue swollen and red - doctors charmingly describe it as a "strawberry" tongue. As the fever subsides there is frequently peeling of the skin, especially on the hands and feet.

My father backed away in some alarm on hearing that our home was infected with scarlet fever. He had spent six weeks in isolation in the school sanatorium after getting the disease in the Thirties. At that time, scarlet fever was dreaded because cases



Above: Lizzie and daughter Christina; top: Beth in 'Little Women' contracted scarlet fever Andrew Hasson

developed far away, in time and distance, from others. Thinking that one must come from another, people would blame the contamination on a toy that had been played with by another scarlet fever patient a year before. Now, it is understood that a child who develops scarlet fever probably picked up a germ from someone who just had a sore throat, or was carrying the *streptococcus* without feeling its effect at all.

Our household copy of Dr Spock, published in 1957, advised that scarlet fever could be treated with "one of the modern drugs that shorten the disease and greatly lessen the chances of complications". It still went on, however, to list frightening-sounding complications such as rheumatic fever, and urged parents to check with the local authority about quarantining regulations.

When I asked my doctor about this, she shot me and the latter health manual a withering look, and put the record straight.

Before the advent of antibiotics, scarlet fever did pose a considerable risk to health, because of the danger of the bacteria

spreading from the throat to other parts of the body. This can still result in ear infections, sinusitis, necrotising fascitis (the famous flesh-eating bug) septicemia, meningitis, pneumonia and toxic shock syndrome. In the past, it also caused rheumatic fever and kidney infections. Nowadays scarlet fever can be diagnosed by a throat swab test, and treatment with an antibiotic, usually penicillin or erythromycin, usually leads to rapid recovery.

There may also be other reasons for scarlet fever having ceased to be a killer disease. People are obviously healthier and living in less crowded conditions, but Dr Weinberg believes the bug itself may have become less virulent. "A bug that kills its host is badly designed. It in fact wants to live with its host. So it is probable that the *streptococcus* that causes scarlet fever has adapted, so that the discomfort it causes is less severe."

Our immune systems, too, are constantly shifting, which explains why some people may come into contact with the *streptococci* but suffer no ill-effects, whereas children, whose immune systems are not fully developed, are more prone to the disease.

Although scarlet fever is no longer a killer, it remains on the list of notifiable diseases, "more for historical reasons than for anything else", says Dr Weinberg. However, he and his colleagues do not wish to see it removed from the list because of the danger that the bug could become virulent again. "It is important to maintain surveillance of a disease that has the potential to be life threatening, and monitor its level of occurrence. At the moment the bacterium that causes scarlet fever is highly sensitive to penicillin, but it is possible that new strains could develop which are resistant."

Both I and my daughter are now fully recovered, and, having researched this piece, I am truly thankful for the availability of penicillin. No longer do I harbour daft romantic notions about 19th-century diseases, though I admit I got a lot more sympathy from friends and family than my husband, who was also pretty ill over Christmas - but he only had a nasty bout of flu!

A QUESTION OF HEALTH



DR FRED KAVALIER

I TAKE hormone replacement therapy, which contains oestrogen and progesterone. The progesterone is present only during the second half of the month. I feel terrific when I am taking the oestrogen on its own, but dreadful when I start the progesterone. Why can't I just take the oestrogen? Progesterone is added to HRT because it prevents the lining of the uterus from being overstimulated by oestrogen. When HRT was first introduced, women who took oestrogen on its own had an increased risk of cancer of the lining of the uterus. This cancer risk can be eliminated by taking progesterone for at least 10 days a month. You have several options. You could try a type of HRT that contains a different formulation of progesterone. Another possibility is to take tibolone, which is a unique form of HRT that does not contain progesterone. If all else fails, you may be able to take oestrogen on its own if you are regular (probably once a year) biopsies of the lining of the womb to check for cancer. This is not as bad as it sounds, but you would need to organise it with a gynaecologist.

I AM a 34-year-old man with seborrhoeic dermatitis: dandruff and flaky skin on my forehead and cheeks, especially in cold weather. I have tried Nizoral shampoo and Daktacort cream, neither of which has had any effect. I am getting desperate and a brown paper bag seems the only option. Any suggestions? A yeast infection with *Trichosporon ovale* is one of the factors that causes seborrhoeic dermatitis. For your scalp, try Polytar AF, a shampoo that contains zinc pyrithione. For your face, you should try terbinafine (Lamisil) cream, which sometimes works better than Daktacort. You will need a doctor's prescription for this.

Please send questions to A Question of Health, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL; fax 0171-293 2182; or e-mail to health@independent.co.uk. Dr Kavalier cannot respond personally to questions

The dental chair is a more comfortable place

Fear of the dentist's surgery is no longer justified. Technology is transforming it from torture chamber to beauty parlour. By Roger Dobson

FOR MOST of her life, Dawn Hutchings was too embarrassed about the state of her teeth to smile, laugh or even talk without holding a protective hand in front of her mouth.

After years of anxiety and worry, the 35-year-old administrator dipped into her savings, spent £4,150 on a new smile, and now says that it has completely changed her life.

"For years I was miserable because my teeth were disgusting and I thought nothing could be done. It's made me a different person, and friends and the people I work with can't believe that it's me," she says.

Treatments such as hers are possible because of the techniques that have transformed dentistry in recent years. Not so long ago, dental surgeries had about as much charm as a medieval torture chamber; only the bravest plucked up courage to seek out a dentist as a last resort, to have a painful tooth extracted or filled.

But the *Marathon Man* era of dentistry has now all but gone. Radical technology has transformed dentists from tooth-pullers into tooth-savers, and most visits to the surgery are no longer driven by pain, but by a simple desire to keep teeth healthy and prevent decay.

Fluoride in toothpaste and dietary changes, particularly a lower sugar intake, started the revolution

in dental health care that created greater expectations, which in turn fuelled the search for new treatments and methods, from painless fillings to home whitening kits.

The noisy drill is now being replaced by air brushes and gels; teeth can be rebuilt in the mouth or

whitened with lasers; Baywatch smiles can be created from a jagged line of yellow teeth.

People are much more aware of their teeth now, and dentistry is very different to what it was; it's much more preventive," says Dr Tony Newbury, a Harley Street dentist.

"When I graduated in the early Sixties we took teeth out and we had two filling materials - black for the back, white for the front. That was it. Now there is a whole heap of things we can do. When I started I would do five or more extractions a week; now I may do five in a whole year.

The art of dentistry has changed significantly. The whole thing is to be minimally invasive, whereas in the past we were maximally invasive. We were taught to put fillings in just in case the teeth got decayed.

"We can do all sorts of things now.

We can bond material to the surface

of teeth, which means you don't have to be drastic when you cut into teeth, and you don't have to do the great undercuts that we had to do in the past to hold the material in place. We can change the colour of the teeth, straighten crooked teeth, fill the spaces between teeth, rebuild

chips, and so on. It is the most exciting time in dentistry."

The treatment Dawn Hutchings had took three hours. Her problem was that she had dark yellow upper teeth, two twisted teeth, spaces between them, a receding upper jaw and a thin lip line.

Her treatment involved having resin sculptures bonded to the teeth, and changing their colour to a natural-looking white. The teeth were lengthened and built into a better and fuller smile, and the resin has given more support to her upper lip.

More developments are on the horizon, including a compound that coats the teeth and prevents bacteria from sticking. One coat of this compound will give protection for up to four months.

There are also treatments for those who have a morbid fear of the dentist and the drill.

According to Dr Peter Webb, author of *Robinson's Family Encyclopedia of Homeopathic Remedies*, there are natural potions suitable for those who faint or throw up at the sight and smell of a dental surgery. The secret for those whose symptoms are a weakening of the knees and short-term memory loss at the prospect, is, he says, a lot of yellow jasmin, taken an hour before the appointment.

SOME OF THE LATEST ADVANCES IN DENTAL TECHNOLOGY

A complete smile: The full works involves building up the front of the teeth with special resin and thickening the teeth by about half a millimetre. Teeth can also be lengthened, lined up and whitened, and gaps and chips filled in. Cost: around £5,000 for the upper teeth

Air abrasion filling: A spray of an air-and-powder mix that cuts out decay. Unlike a drill, it removes little of the good tooth surrounding the decay. Ideal for those with a dental phobia, it is silent, with no odour or heat, and in most cases there is no need for an injection. Cost: £85-£185

Dental gel filling: Dissolves tooth decay with no drilling.

BEFORE COSMETIC DENTISTRY

injection or pain. The gel breaks down protein layers in the decayed dentine of the tooth. It also contains sodium hypochlorite, an anti-bacteria agent to break up decay. Cost: £85-£185

Braces: Brackets can be fitted to the inside of the teeth, out of sight. They can also be removed by the patient. Cost: £250-£2,000

Laser whitening: Teeth discolour for a variety of reasons including blood disorders, ageing, trauma and tobacco. In this therapy, a gel is painted on to the teeth, then exposed to a low-power laser. In three minutes yellow teeth can be lightened by three shades. The teeth will continue to whiten over the next 48 hours. Cost: £350 to £600

AFTER TREATMENT

Resin veneer: Plaque-free teeth are coated with a veneer of composite resin, bonded directly on to the surface of the tooth to make it thicker and whiter. Cost: Around £250 a tooth

Resin compound: For gaps and chips. It is hardened with halogen or plasma light. Cost: Around £250 a gap

Perio-temp: A device to test the temperature of pockets in the tissue around the gum. A raised temperature indicates possible problems. Cost: Can be part of an initial consultation, cost £40-£60

Decay detector: A laser system using infrared light to detect decay before it can be seen

Men who have a problem fathering children often feel that their manhood itself is under threat. By Heather Welford

Infertile doesn't mean impotent

Women who are unable to conceive often suffer from depression; men may react in a more complex way to the discovery that they have a fertility problem.

Ken Gannon, a psychologist at St Barts and the Royal London Hospital in east London, has researched the emotional effects of infertility on men and women. He and his colleagues found high levels of psychological distress in both sexes, in line with previous research, but, more importantly, the type of distress differed between the sexes.

"We found that subfertile men were more likely to suffer from anxiety, whereas subfertile women were more likely to be depressed," he says. "The levels of anxiety in men are really very high. About 50 per cent of them have clear clinical symptoms."

This means, he says, that mainstream fertility counselling, which usually follows a bereavement model by acknowledging feelings of loss, may be less appropriate for men than for women.

"Men may feel less like grieving, and more threatened by their subfertility," he says. "There is a powerful feeling that their identity as men is under attack. They also know that society confuses them in the sense of the ability to have sex, with fertility."

This makes it hard for men even to acknowledge their distress to themselves. Dr Sammy Lee, a reproductive physiologist at London's Portman Clinic, says that men may react to this huge blow to their self-esteem by isolating themselves from other people and going into complete denial.

"Too many infertile men don't realise that their greatest asset is

their partner, who can give them so much support if they'll only let her. Sometimes I get a call from a woman who sees counselling on behalf of her man—he'll be in the background, chipping in, and I'm counselling him through her. Or he may even be watching the football on TV at the same time."

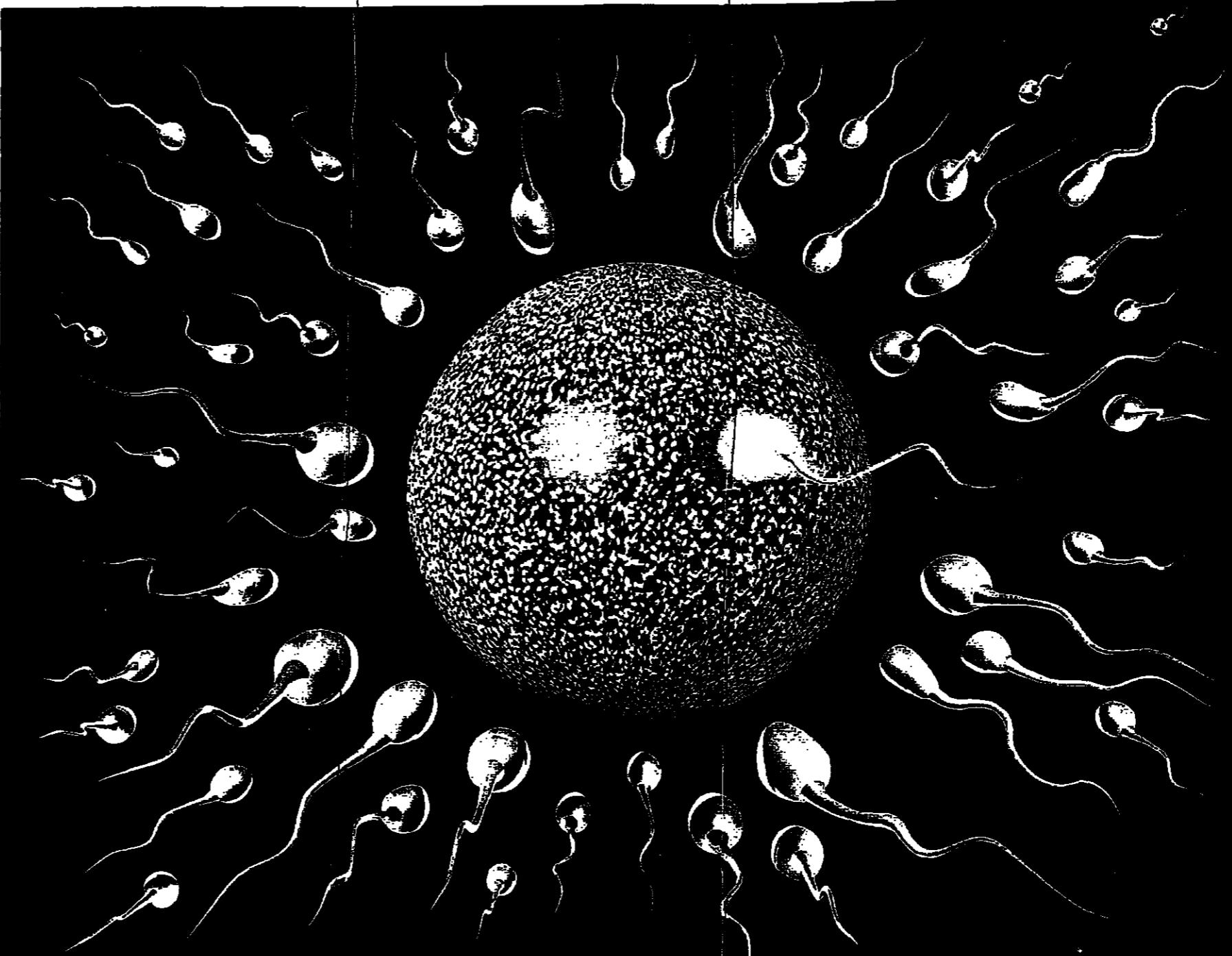
Nicky Wesson helps to run a support group for infertile couples. "It's daunting for men to come along to a group," she says. "They feel like outcasts—as if they can't talk to anyone. Even communication within the couple is difficult."

It is not surprising that things are the way they are, though, says Dr Lee. Infertility treatment tends to focus on the female, whether or not it is she who has the physical problem. "Men are absent in the clinic, except for the times when they're being treated, or producing a sample. We reduce them to the role of sperm providers."

"It's typical of the way men's feelings are sidelined throughout everything to do with pregnancy and birth," agrees Ken Gannon. "It's the same after a miscarriage. Most of the concerns are directed to the woman, whereas the man may need support, too."

Yet male fertility is a factor in at least half of the one in six couples who have problems. Male subfertility is increasing. Cases of disorders of the male reproductive tract have doubled in the last 30 to 50 years, and there has been an overall fall in sperm counts.

Various environmental reasons have been put forward as a possible cause, including chemical pollution, and, in the case of individuals, substance abuse. "Heavy cocaine use can be extremely damaging to the body's ability to produce sperm," says Dr Lee. And, more startlingly, he also speculates that there may be



A computer simulation of human sperm approaching an egg during the fertilisation process

a physiological link between the way men feel about themselves in a changing world, and their hormones. "Men are in crisis," he says. "They see women in power; and in management positions above them, and they haven't learnt to cope with it yet. If we could investigate, I think we'd find an effect on their sperm production—these ladies bite your balls."

Some of the more dramatic advances in fertility treatment help men, especially men with a low sperm count. Intrauterine sperm injection (ICSI), for example, injects a single sperm into the egg. There is now work being done on extracting a sample of sperm from the testes, and then treating it to zap up

its fertility. However, as Marsali Macdonald, a counsellor from Nurture (Nottingham University Research and Treatment Unit in Reproduction), says, new breakthroughs can be a curse as well as a blessing. "It can mean it's difficult to know when to get off the treatment treadmill. It's like the lottery. If you try one more time, could this be the month you strike lucky?"

The cost of fertility treatment may also add to the stress. 75 per cent of couples pay for at least some of their treatment. The patchy availability of NHS services means that it is "treatment by postcode" for some. One man, delighted to be the father of triplets after a successful treatment at Nurture, told the Derby Evening

Telegraph that he reckoned their children had cost them, all told, £50,000, including his wife's loss of earnings after having had to give up work to undergo treatment.

The Family Planning Association's new booklet, "Infertility: Tests and Treatment", acknowledges the effect that infertility has on relationships, including sexual relations. Speaking for men as well as women, it says, "It can be very easy to despair, or to get so anxious about having a child that nothing else seems to matter."

That was the case with Paul, 36, from London, a catering supplier. Paul has azoospermia—he produces no sperm. "When I got the diagnosis, after two sperm tests, I was

really very angry," he says. "Then the anger turned to profound feelings of failure. My wife Rosalie and I followed up every possible lead. I had hormone injections for months. Then I had a course of Chinese herbs. But nothing made any difference. I felt that my whole world was being ruled by my infertility. Life was becoming a treadmill of injections, tests, clinic appointments. I wasn't in control."

Paul found that counselling was useful in helping him and his wife decide it was time to stop. "We wanted to take back control, and return to what we had at the start of our marriage—our life as a couple. Now, we accept we won't ever have children, but while we can't say we're happy

about it, it doesn't rule our lives any more. If people ask, 'how many children do you have?' I just say, 'none, I can't have any.' A few years ago, I might not have been able to say that without being emotional."

Issue: 01922 722883; *Child, the National Infertility Support Network*: 0124 732361. *Nurture*: 015 970940. For the Family Planning Association booklet, which has a useful list of contacts plus treatment information, send £1.50 to FPA Publications dept, PO Box 1078, East Oxford, OX2 0XA. *Alternative Fertility Treatments* by Nicky Wesson (Vermilion, £2.99), *Counselling in Male Infertility* by Dr Sammy Lee (Blackwell Science, 1996).

Operating for vanity can damage your health

Doctors are finding there are health risks with a condition traditionally thought of as cosmetic. By Ed Walker

VARICOSE VEINS are not glamorous. The phrase "surgical support stockings" may be almost impossible to say with a completely straight face but the affliction is far from funny for sufferers, and not only because it can be so unsightly.

Varicose veins may become inflamed or infected, resulting in exquisitely tender legs that need treatment with antibiotics and anti-inflammatory drugs. Or the stagnant blood in them may clot, with the clot perhaps spreading to the bigger veins deep inside the leg. This condition can be life-threatening.

The researchers studied 1,500 people, and asked them about these feelings in their legs. The commonest complaints were "aching" in women (53.8 per cent) and "cramps" in men (34 per cent). Overall, women reported more problems than men, and all symptoms became more prevalent with age. Then the volunteers were examined by doctors to look for evidence of any varicose veins, and grade their severity. Of the entire group (adjusted for age) about 55 per cent had varicose veins in contrast to symptoms, the figure is slightly higher in men than in women. But there was precious little evidence to link the presence of the veins with the symptoms attributed to them.

In the men, the only symptom that bore any relationship to varicose veins was itching. In women, heaviness, aching and itching correlated significantly with the presence of varicose veins, although the paper's authors say that even this finding "may be of limited clinical value".

They conclude that even in the presence of varicose veins, "most lower limb symptoms probably have a non-venous cause". They also say that many people with quite severe varicose veins have no symptoms at all. Nor is there any evidence to suggest that operating on varicose veins early (which is meant, be-

fore the first skin changes of venous insufficiency appear) has any preventive effect on the later development of leg ulcers.

More than 50,000 varicose vein operations are carried out each year on the NHS. It is not major surgery, but even so, each operation costs about £2,000 to carry out. In the ever-cost-conscious health service, we need to be sure that this is being spent wisely. Given the at best tenuous link between varicose veins and symptoms, the question arises whether operations are being performed unnecessarily.

Most patients seek surgery for uncomplicated varicose veins simply because they don't like the look of them, which is an entirely understandable reaction. But since this comes under the heading of "cosmetic" surgery, they may feel that they should also have other complaints, in order to persuade a surgeon to operate. At present it seems that many surgeons are happy to accept this as a reason to do so.

The researchers in Edinburgh advise that before considering surgery, a trial of "support hosiery" should be used, to see whether it has any effect on the patient's symptoms. Graded support stockings, properly fitted and properly worn, compress the dilated veins and force blood into the deeper veins inside the leg, which are more efficient at getting blood back up the body.

But even if symptoms do improve, it seems that at present the only way of finding out whether surgery will indeed help in the long term is to "operate and see". Although you'll almost certainly rid yourself of the squiggy blue lines running down your calves, you may also be left with your tingly, swollen, itchy legs as before. Which will leave your doctors scratching their heads as to what to do next.

When is having sex having sex, and when is it politics?

HEALTH CHECK

JEREMY LAURANCE

sensationalism here, not science," he said.

The sacking has provoked an extraordinary reaction which cannot have been anticipated by the AMA.

The story dominated the broadcast media for most of the day on which it was announced, and at least 53 metropolitan newspapers carried it on their front pages. Since then, acres of newsprint have been devoted to the sacking, almost all of it critical of the AMA, which has been depicted as hidebound and out

of touch. As the *New York Post* put it: "I haven't heard recently of any editor being fired for being relevant about what's going on in the world."

On this side of the Atlantic, the *British Medical Journal* had within 10 days received 67 responses on its website to its comment on the sacking, 55 of which (82 per cent) were outraged by Lundberg's dismissal. Half of these were editors themselves. One, Magne Nylen, editor of the *Journal of the Norwegian Medical Association*, suggested establishing a George Lundberg Award for editorial integrity.

There are several bizarre aspects of these events. The first is that the AMA is itself deeply embroiled in national politics. In the last decade, as the *St Louis Post-Dispatch* observed, the AMA's Political Action Committee has given more than \$14m (£9.8m) to political candidates, with about two-thirds going to Republicans.

It has also criticised every health reform bill as "socialised medicine". The charge of hypocrisy is difficult to resist. The second is the suggestion that doctors should keep out of politics. Yet, as most doctors acknowledge, political change over the last half-century has brought greater improvements in health than medical advance—tackling poverty, improving housing and employment.

In terms of public health, timing is critical. A warning about sex or smoking may fall on deaf ears on one occasion and capture the lime-light on another, often for reasons that are hard to predict in advance. It depends on linking with other events, riding on a tide of opinion, catching the zeitgeist. In this instance, the Clinton link, as well as being interesting in itself, gave a reasonable chance that the message of the study would be widely disseminated.

Now is the finding unimportant. It carries a message that goes beyond the parous games of the chattering classes. (Does sharing a bedroom with a member of the opposite sex count as adultery? Does sharing a bed?) For doctors and other health professionals with an interest in adolescent and sexual health, the issue of what young people understand as "having sex" matters a good deal. It demonstrates that closer and more specific questioning may be necessary to elicit details of activities that could, in the context of Aids and other sexually transmissible diseases, be dangerous.

As one correspondent to the *BMJ*—Simon Chapman, editor of *Tobacco Control*—discovered when he questioned his teenage children, fellatio may be commoner than we think.



Monica Lewinsky and Bill Clinton—so was it sex?

AP

MEDIA

Chris Evans boasted that Radio 1 wouldn't survive without him. He clearly hadn't reckoned on Andy Parfitt. By Rhys Williams

They're playing our tune again

Radio 1's central London office is a bit of a dump. The reception is dingy, cramped and packed with pluggers (the record industry's equivalent of door-to-door salesmen); the walls are covered in an unwelcoming shade of grey.

Not very rock'n'roll – and a good thing too. First, because it means the corporation is clearly not wasting licence payers' money on trips to Habitat. Second, and more importantly, Radio 1 is no longer very rock'n'roll. These days, it is more about indie or dance or rap or, particularly pop. If there is a charge being levelled against the network and Andy Parfitt, its controller of 11 months, it is that Radio 1 has become a just little too pop.

Since taking over from Matthew Bannister, Parfitt has changed more than three-quarters of the schedule. John Peel has been restored to the 10pm slot, Zoë Ball has taken sole charge of the breakfast show and put on half a million listeners, while the network's rising star Chris Moyles has transferred from dawn to drive-time. Parfitt's prints are all over the place, not least in his office where the seemingly ubiquitous battleship grey has been replaced by sunflower yellow. In the last three months of 1998 (the first full quarter of his new line-up), Radio 1 added 200,000 listeners and registered its highest share of listening for two years.

But there is a feeling among some that ratings success has come at the expense of the cutting-edge sound that transformed tired old, said old Fab FM into the vibrant, youthful driving force of Britpop. Specialist programmes across the evenings and weekends still play the latest in dance, indie and rap but, in the daytime, when the big numbers tune in and radio outperforms television, you are just as likely to hear the more populist strains of Steps, 911 or Billie Pulp, Blur or Mercury Rev. An articulated lorry could scarcely make a more dramatic return.

"Most people in the music industry would acknowledge that it's one of those cyclical things," counters Parfitt. "Steve Lamacq [Radio 1's indie guru] said the tide has gone out on Britpop and what replaced it for a while was pop music. Not just cheesy boy or girl bands, but also Natalie Imbruglia and Robbie

Williams, both examples of really great songwriting quality."

"We're not judgemental about what makes valuable new music and nor are we listeners. They say they are as happy to sing along to 'Angels' as to listen to Pete Tong stretching new European dance music. There's a less tribal view, more acceptance of different strands of music."

Until as recently as 1993, the idea of Radio 1 paying much attention to either new music or a 15-to-24-year-old target audience was frankly as bizarre as most of the stuff you hear on John Peel's show. In fact, Peel recalls the old days at Radio 1 as a time when "you did have to keep your interest in music very much to yourself".

This all changed in late 1993 with



Ball (right) inherited Radcliffe's unsuccessful breakfast-time slot

the arrival of Bannister, who, with Parfitt as his trusted assistant, administered the broadcasting equivalent of an enema. Dave Lee Travis, Simon Bates, Gary Davies and Bruno Brookes jumped or were jettisoned, signalling a step-change in output that in turn precipitated the defection of about half its audience.

Bannister later admitted that these changes were set in motion without necessarily having the clearest idea of where the network would go. It was Parfitt who crystallised the strategic thinking. He presented a template for the station called "Wire Free", a youth-centred, new music-driven service that would wrap its programming around a young person's every recreational and social need. Music would be the entry point, but it also had to be about cinema, clubbing, gigs, advice on drugs and coping with exams, and finding ways to package news.

The ideas hold today. Addressing

the 15-to-24-year-old age group served Radio 1's needs perfectly – it gives the station a point of difference to compete with the exponential growth in commercial radio and fulfil its public service obligations. "Radio 1 has to be central to young lives in the UK," Parfitt says. "That's who I care about most. I'm not trying to sell them anything, to show a sponsor's name down their throats or deliver them to advertisers."

Parfitt is as evangelical about his audience's needs as he is about the power of radio, a medium to which he has devoted his entire working life. He started out as a BBC trainee studio manager; ran a station in the Falklands for the British Forces Broadcasting Service, then became breakfast editor on the then Radio 5. "I'm a radio devotee," he says.

This all changed in late 1993 with



Ball (right) inherited Radcliffe's unsuccessful breakfast-time slot

"There isn't a room in my house that hasn't got one or even two radios. Radio gets under the radar and into people's lives in a beautifully subtle way. For our audience, it's the sound-track to their lives."

The arrival of Britpop in 1995 was like manna from heaven. It leant Radio 1 the credibility its rework desperately needed, but in reality the relationship was symbiotic. It was Steve Lamacq's and Jo Whiley's aggressive championing of Oasis (the *Evening Session* was the first to play the 12-inch of "Columbia") months before the band had a hit, and Blur validated Britpop as a new movement and encouraged labels desperate to get on the playlist to sign up guitar bands.

There was more to Radio 1 than Britpop, of course. Danny Rampling joined Pete Tong to boost the network's presence in dance music, while Tim Westwood did the same with rap. Then there was Chris

Evans. He often describes himself as the saviour of Radio 1, when in fact the massive audience decline was arrested before his arrival. True, he added 1.2 million listeners to the breakfast show, but his chief significance was as a mascot for the network's transformation. "Chris shone a spotlight on a radio station that had radically changed," says Parfitt. "When the light was shone, it was found to be new, young and credible."

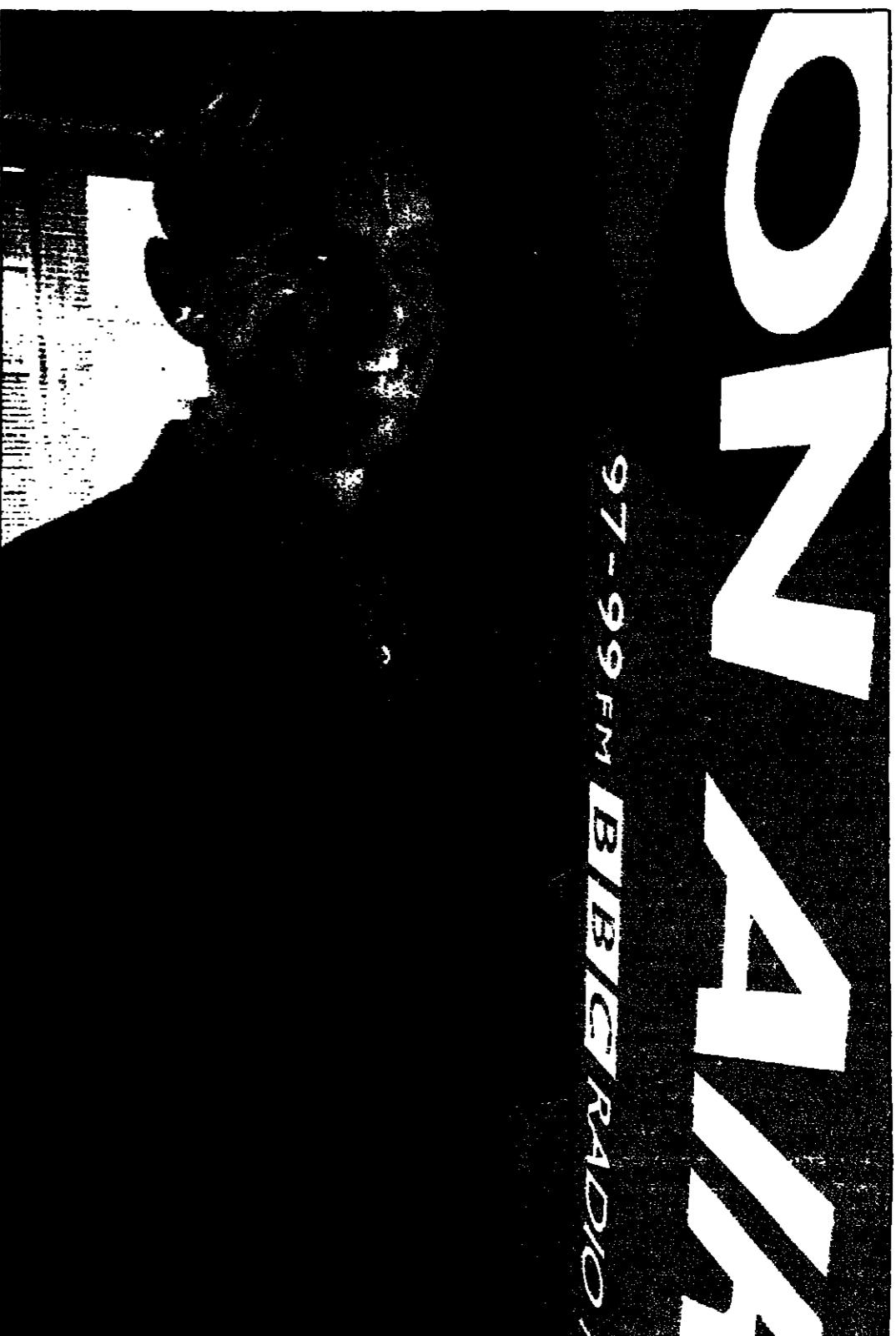
But then Evans resigned amid acrimony and the whole enterprise threatened to unravel. The presenter's other legacy was to turn the breakfast show into a tabloid sideshow and ensure a disproportionate amount of media attention was focused on its two-hour segment.

When his successors Mark Radcliffe and Mark "Lard" Riley failed to hold Evans's audiences, the setback was telescoped into a crisis for the whole network. Harsh, because Mark and Lard are hugely original DJs who were unfortunate to be placed in a slot wholly inappropriate for their style, but also because the rest of the network was unchanged.

With breakfast show losses running close to 2 million listeners in seven months, Radio 1 then gambled on the unusual pairing of Kevin Greening and radio virgin Zoë Ball. After an initial increase, audiences remained flat, so Parfitt placed Ball in sole charge last September. The half-million listeners she has added mean that her show outgrows Evans on Virgin Radio by two to one, which delights Parfitt. When Evans left, he promised his rival offering would "kill" Radio 1. "He declared war on us," says Parfitt. "He said he would smash us and he hasn't."

"The radio station today is so different from his days here. When you've got one individual who's the focus of all the attention, teamwork can be difficult to achieve. There are no separate programme agendas any more; we're united in what we're trying to do."

One lesson Parfitt has learnt is the need for stability – he has just signed up Ball for a further three years. He also foresees no more immediate changes to the schedule. "When the rest of our listeners' lives are changing and becoming more difficult, they want to switch on and hear familiar voices. Successful schedules take years to establish. The longer they are on, the more embedded they become in people's lives."



Not loitering by the Coke machine: under Andy Parfitt, Radio 1 is the real thing Mark Chivers

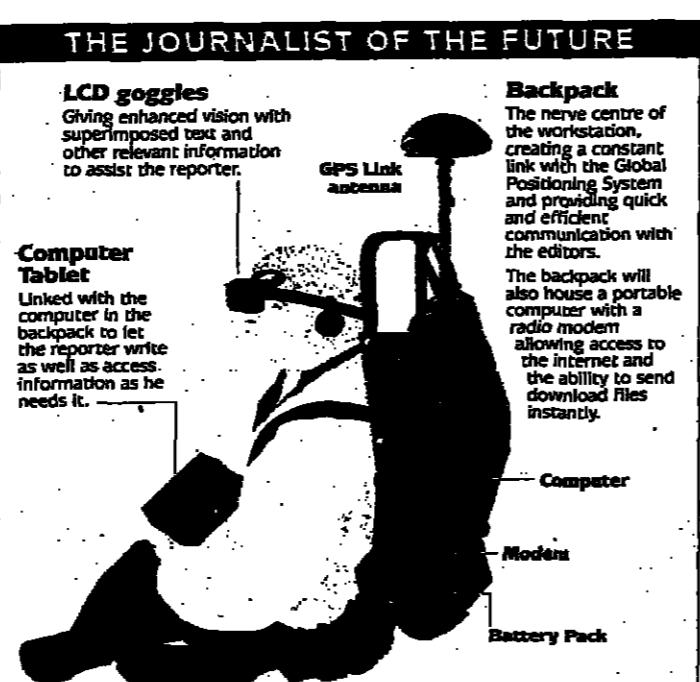
Will a high-tech backpack replace the hack's mac?

IT'S REPORTING, Jim, but perhaps not quite as we know it and could dispel forever the traditional image of a tired hack in a worn-out raincoat, carrying a scribbled-on notebook and asking for a phone.

The hack – sorry, mobile journalist – of the future would wear a backpack linking them to the Global Positioning System, allowing an editor to ascertain their location to within a few feet; a radio modem, for direct filing of stories over a wireless link to the Internet; see-through goggles with liquid-crystal displays which would superimpose text and other details on the scene as the wearer moves around; and to link and control it all, a portable computer, mostly worn as a backpack, but including a handheld computer tablet for writing and making queries of the system back home.

This vaguely frightening idea comes from Professor John Pavlik, and his team at the Center for New Media at Columbia University in New York, who are developing a prototype. It would give better access through wireless technologies to a wide spectrum of information, including the Internet, but also to remotely located queries and editors, "says Professor Pavlik.

At this point I have to inject a note of caution. Journalists are already tightly linked to remotely located experts and editors. They use that wonderful invention the mobile telephone: the days of asking at pubs houses if you can use their phone are long gone. Electronic filing is the norm. Journalists can be sent messages from their newsdesks by email. Satellite phones mean that Richard Branson's balloon makes a solo trip from a Moroccan military airbase (as happened a few years ago), writers can use their mobile phones to contact their offices. Furthermore, news photographers don't even have to develop their film: most of them have dig-



I searched for the film's name on the Internet; *Broadcast News*, I eventually discovered after five frustrating minutes.

Then I wondered: would it have been faster to use old-fashioned journalistic techniques? So I asked my office neighbour: "I'm not a film buff," he said. "Ask David Lister [four Arts News Editor]."

David Lister knew at once when I mentioned Ms Hunter's name. "Brodonst News," he said. "Except it wasn't Jeff Bridges, it was William Hurt." In 30 seconds I had not only got the right answer – I had got all the right information (I had overlooked Hurt's name on the Web page). Which goes to show that sometimes you can rely on technology too much at the expense of consulting real people.

CHARLES ARTHUR

The colour of prejudice

LAST WEEK, for the second time in recent months, anti-racists protested outside the offices of the *Daily Mail* against its xenophobic coverage of asylum-seekers in this country. The piece that provoked the most recent row was a long, vitriolic attack on Somalis in Ealing, where I live, written by a "top writer", Jo Ann Goodwin. It was well-crafted to create anger and panic. Facts that matter would have got in the way of this broader social purpose, so they were simply left out. Goodwin says that 90 per cent of Somalis in Ealing are unemployed, but not that many of them are not allowed to work and others face awful discrimination. I know, because friends give them the odd gardening or babysitting job.

But this is what the *Mail* does, so why the angry surprise? I think it is because expectations of the paper have changed in the past two years. Once upon a time you used to be able either to love or hate the *Mail*, because it was a truly dependable paper. It was guaranteed not to disappoint or confuse you by taking unexpected positions. Unions were strong, unmarred mothers a national scandal. Thatcher was a goddess we did not merit and the only deserving people in Britain were white home-owners.

Blacks were to be feared and loathed, because they were mostly muggers and rapists. A handful of Asians were useful little millionaires, but most ran dirty corner shops, caged their sweet, anglicised little girls, and ripped off the welfare state. Most of all, immigrants were vermin, overrunning the country, claiming to be refugees, destroying our green and pleasant land.

There were a few oddities that didn't quite make sense in these terms. The *Mail*, unlike some more liberal papers, not only has been open to black and Asian journalists for years now, but was the first to give a black journalist, Baz Bamigbola, a star job as their show-

Despite its coverage of the Lawrence case, the *Daily Mail* has reverted to type on race

By Yasmin Alibhai-Brown

personal contact was born an astonishing, unlikely campaign.

But one flower does not mean springtime and it is time to ask whether this one good deed has carried too much importance. Maybe we anti-racists have been naive to think that this was anything more than an aberration, the deeper reasons for which can only be speculated on. It was sensational; it sold papers and added moral worthiness to a vast list of other qualities that give the *Mail* its unassailable reputation. It may even have given the paper licence to hound its traditional victims even more viciously. Without doubt, asylum seekers have long been among the top targets of the paper, and they can expect even less mercy today. Yesterday it was no surprise to see

UNCRUPULOUS FIRMS CASH IN ON KOSOVARS' DESPERATION

Illegal immigrants queue up for jobs on the black economy



a page lead exposing illegal immigrants from the war in Kosovo "queuing up for jobs in the black economy".

Journalist Paul Coleman carried out a survey of the national newspapers on the press coverage of asylum-seekers for the think-tank the Runnymede Trust. The *Mail* had the largest number of articles on the subject, three times as many as in *The Sun* and double those in other right-wing papers. Of course, none of the reports included information on violations of human rights in the countries where asylum-seekers came from, or explained that the Geneva Convention excludes people who are fleeing natural disasters, such as earthquakes. None of those quoted were asylum-seekers. Recently pages were devoted to the crimes committed by asylum seekers and refugees in this country. More cases might have emerged if they had done a spread, say, on nurses who have broken the law.

When I was researching my book, *True Colours*, on attitudes to multiculturalism, ex-*Mail* journalists told me that the Immigration Services Union had a direct link with the paper and sought to exaggerate the "problem" of illegal immigration. Thus the anti-refugee obsession carries on.

I came here in 1972, a dispossessed person from Uganda. The *Mail* told us at the time there was no space for us here. But 30,000 jobs have been created by Ugandan Asians in the Midlands since, and on the 25th anniversary of our arrival the successes in the community were even praised by the paper.

Perhaps we should send an appealing Somali or Kosovan refugee to work for Dacre, if that is what it takes to change direction for the paper. But wouldn't it be better if this extraordinary editor decided to use his influence to create just a little more understanding of why refugees leave their countries, and what most of them bring to our nation?

We all make mistakes. But if you're skilful they need not cost you your job. By Paul McCann

Crisis? What crisis?

ITwo men, two gaffes, two Saturday morning news-paper exclusives. But two stories with very different endings. In one story, the England football manager expresses a view on reincarnation that has nothing to do with football. He is hounded from his job. Another man, the Chief Inspector of Schools, is quoted suggesting that a relationship between a teacher and a pupil can be "educative" at a time when the Government is specifically legislating to outlaw such relationships. He appears to be keeping his job.

The lesson that the public relations industry would have us learn from the Glenn Hoddle and Chris Woodhead stories is the power of crisis management. Invest in good PR advice, they claim, and we'll show you how to survive your gaffe.

"Every situation is savable," says the celebrity publicist Max Clifford. "Just look at Clinton. My strategy would have been to get Hoddle to admit that he wasn't good at English - that's why he got into football. After all, humility goes a long way in this country."

"He could have come out and denied believing that the disabled deserve their lot, saying that he was sorry for any distress caused. At the same time, I would have had the disabled organisations he had worked with for years come forward and support him. You could have got to the point where Blair wouldn't have dared make the remarks that he did on the Richard and Judy show."

The Prime Minister said on ITV's *This Morning* that if Hoddle's remarks had been correctly reported "it would be very hard for him to stay". It has been identified as the point at which the England manager's position became untenable. Dave Hill, the long-time Labour spin doctor and veteran of many emergency rebuttals, agrees that Hoddle could have extricated himself: "He had to know on Friday night it was going to be a huge story. Even on Saturday morning, it would have been possible for him to get on the



Woodhead was quick to present his version of events, while Hoddle left a vacuum PA/Reuters



Hoddle had limited options." PA/Reuters

Invest in good PR, they claim, and we'll show you how to survive your gaffe

left a vacuum which journalists were able to fill themselves."

The other option for Hoddle was to deny his quote completely. This is an option suggested by another former Labour spin doctor now plowing his trade outside politics. Not sur-

prisingly, he doesn't wish to be named: "If desperate he could have stuck to the fact that he didn't say it. In the case of Roger Liddle and the *Observer*'s cash for access story, Downing Street made it an issue about journalistic integrity, demanding a tape and getting the focus shifted to whether he said something, not what he said."

Max Clifford believes Hoddle should never have been allowed into the position where he could talk about reincarnation: "The biggest part of damage limitation is anticipation. You know what someone's opinions are on something and so you make sure that there is no way they ever talk about that subject. Despite cases like Terry Venables and Graham Taylor, the FA still doesn't seem to understand the importance of the manager's media relations." Other PR experts agree that Hoddle had a much bigger firestorm to deal with than Woodhead. An Eng-

land football manager is a much bigger story than a chief inspector of schools - despite what that says about the news values of the media and the public.

"Woodhead was helped by the story breaking on a Saturday for the same reason that Hoddle was harmed by the story breaking on a Saturday," says Hill. "Saturday is a sports news day. There wasn't much space on the short Saturday news bulletins for Woodhead's story." Added to this is the essential fact that Hoddle started from a much weaker position: "You can't ignore the different circumstances of the two men," says Hill.

"Hoddle was someone cut off from the real world. Woodhead understands politics and media and, crucially, he didn't have any baggage. His profile had been neutral for a few years and the Government supports him. Hoddle had fallen out with just about every sports journalist in the country."

And that, despite the claims of PR men talking up their trade, could be the greater difference in the two cases - Hoddle's job was much bigger and his gaffe so much worse, and he had burnt his bridges with those who could have helped. Yet the case of the two men is still instructive, not only in the ways of the media and its management, but also in regard to the changing status of public figures.

Celebrity is a commodity that helps to sell things, not least newspapers. This has always been the case - but the media is supposed to be about important people doing important things. Increasingly, it seems, it is about anyone famous doing anything at all.

Politics has understood this for some time and, with its rapid rebuttal unit, the Labour Party has so far been the best at dealing with "gaffe eruptions".

It can be no coincidence therefore that Labour's spin experts are moving out of politics and into the rest of public life. There they will provide their services for those who want to deal with Woodhead, not a Hoddle.

THE WORD ON THE STREET

FORMER TREASURY spin supremo, Charlie Whelan, is getting into his stride as a football pundit for *The Observer*. On Hoddle: "Football fans don't give a monkey's if a manager or a player is religious, but we all get a little worried about born-again Christians." And on Fifa's proposals to make the World Cup every two years instead of the present every four: "It would mean the World Cup coming around twice as often."

Perceptive stuff. And he certainly knows how to drop a hint. The Football Association's handling of the Hoddle affair shows that "there is no bigger media job that needs doing than spin doctor to the new England manager."



the paper on to the plane which brings rival titles *Scotland on Sunday* and *Sunday Post* to the capital. "Nonsense," says a circulation type at DC Thomson, which controls the flight. "There simply isn't room for it." In the hold or on the newsstand?

THE RON Davies affair has branded Clapham Common as a place of nefarious nocturnal goings-on. Worse still, the other habitués of the ex-Welsh

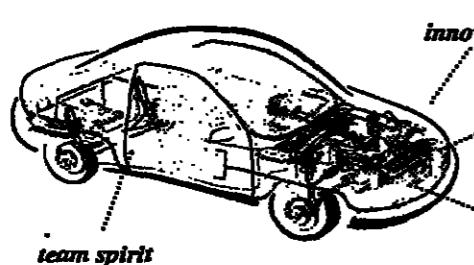
Secretary's favoured pulling place have been disturbed in their doings by a film crew from C4 making a documentary for *Cutting Edge*. The programme is described as "an impressionistic portrait of the bleakly beautiful South London common... a rare insight into the lives of cruisers, courting couples and drifters." The production manager describes it as "a jolly jaunt around the common". Which is very similar to what Mr Davies said.

AT A recent *Mirror* editorial conference discussions centred on the newest batch of Delia Smith recipes. The first recipe due to be launched on a hungry public was for mashed potatoes. "Well that's no good," stated the deputy editor, weight-watching Tina Weaver, "everyone knows that no one eats potatoes any more."

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16/LISTINGS

12

ODEON STUDIO (08705 050007) BR/F Richmond Hill And Jackie 12.30pm, 3.20pm, 6.10pm, 9pm The Opposite of Sex 2.20pm, 7.10pm [PG] 4.30pm, 9.45pm Practical Magic 2pm, 7pm Stepmom 2.10pm, 6pm, 8.50pm Very Bad Things 4.40pm, 9.30pm

ROMFORD ABC (0870-9020419) BR: Romford A Bug's Life 1.40pm, 4.20pm, 8.40pm Practical Magic 2.30pm, 5.55pm, 8.25pm Very Bad Things 4.40pm, 8.30pm

ODEON LIBERTY 2 (08705 090007) BR/F Richmond A Bug's Life 1.20pm, 1.20pm, 2.20pm, 3.45pm, 4.45pm, 5pm, 7pm, 8.15pm, 9pm Enemy of the State 12.45pm, 6.10pm Little Voice 1.30pm, 4.15pm, 6.40pm, 8.50pm Living Out Loud 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm Practical Magic 1.15pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm Shakespeare In Love 12.20pm, 2.50pm, 5.30pm, 8.10pm Stepmom 12.10pm, 3pm, 5.45pm, 8.20pm Very Bad Things 3.45pm, 8.55pm

SIDCUP ABC (051-5551311) BR: Sidcup A Bug's Life 6.15pm, 8.45pm Shakespeare In Love 5.15pm, 8.15pm

STAPLES CORNER VIRGIN (0870-9070717) BR: Cricketwood A Bug's Life 1pm, 2.20pm, 3.45pm, 4.45pm, 6.10pm, 8.30pm Enemy of the State 8.10pm How Stella Got Her Groove Back 3pm, 6pm, 8.45pm The Parent Trap 12.15pm Practical Magic 1.30pm, 4.15pm, 6.45pm Shakespeare In Love 12.20pm, 2.50pm, 5.30pm, 8.10pm Stepmom 12.10pm, 3pm, 5.45pm, 8.20pm Very Bad Things 3.45pm, 8.55pm

STREATHAM ABC (0870-9020415) BR: Streatham Hill Living Out Loud 2.10pm, 4.20pm, 8.55pm Meet Joe Black 7.15pm Shakespeare In Love 2.20pm, 4.45pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm Practical Magic 1.30pm, 4.15pm, 6.45pm, 8.50pm Stepmom 1.20pm, 3.45pm, 6.30pm, 8.15pm Very Bad Things 3.45pm

STRAFFORD NEW STRATFORD PICTURE HOUSE (0181-555 3366) BR/F Stratford East A Bug's Life 2.40pm, 4.50pm, 7pm, 9.10pm How Stella Got Her Groove Back 3pm, 6.30pm, 8.40pm Shakespeare In Love 1.10pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.50pm Stepmom 1.20pm, 3.50pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm Very Bad Things 3.45pm

SURREY QUAYS UCI (0990 888990) BR: Surrey Quays Antz 1.50pm Baby Pig In the City 2pm A Bug's Life 1.5pm, 2.10pm, 3.30pm, 4.45pm, 6pm, 7.30pm, 8.20pm Enemy of the State 1.20pm, 4.45pm, 7.15pm, 9.45pm How Stella Got Her Groove Back 4pm, 6.40pm, 9.40pm Little Voice 4.50pm, 7pm, 9.15pm The Opposite of Sex 4.15pm, 6.50pm, 9.10pm The Parent Trap 2.20pm The Prince of Egypt 1.30pm Saving Private Ryan 7.30pm Shakespeare In Love 1.30pm, 4.15pm, 7pm, 9.40pm Stepmom 1.15pm, 4pm, 6.45pm, 8.25pm Very Bad Things 5pm

SUTTON UCI 6 (0990-988890) BR: Morden A Bug's Life 4.45pm, 6pm, 7pm, 8.30pm Little Voice 2.45pm, 5.30pm, 7.30pm, 9.15pm Saving Private Ryan 8.15pm Shakespeare In Love 3pm, 5.45pm, 8.45pm Star Trek: Insurrection 4.30pm Stepmom 3.15pm, 6.15pm, 8pm Very Bad Things 4.5pm

TURPIN LANE CORONET (0181-888 2519) BR: Turnpike Lane A Bug's Life 4pm, 6.30pm, 8.40pm Little Voice 4.15pm, 6.25pm, 8.45pm Very Bad Things 3.55pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm

UXBRIDGE ODEON (08705 050007) BR: Uxbridge A Bug's Life 1.15pm, 4pm, 6.15pm, 9pm Stepmom 1.40pm, 5pm, 8pm, 10pm

WALTHAMSTON ABC (0870-9020424) BR: Walthamstow A Bug's Life 1pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 8.35pm Little Voice 1.30pm, 4.10pm, 6.20pm, 8.20pm Very Bad Things 1.25pm, 3.55pm, 6.15pm, 8.30pm

WELL HALL CORONET (0181-850 3351) BR: Eltham A Bug's Life 4pm, 6.30pm, 8pm Shakespeare In Love 1pm, 3.45pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm Practical Magic 1.35pm, 3.55pm, 6.20pm, 8.45pm Shakespeare In Love 12.20pm, 2.25pm, 5.35pm, 8.20pm Stepmom 2.30pm, 5.35pm, 8.25pm

WOODFORD ABC (0181-989 3463) BR: South Woodford A Bug's Life 1.40pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 8.40pm Little Voice 2.10pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 8.40pm Shakespeare In Love 2.45pm, 5.30pm, 8.10pm Very Bad Things 1.15pm, 4.15pm, 6.45pm, 8.30pm

WOOD GREEN NEW CURZON (0181-347 6664) BR: Turnpike Lane AA AB Luton Chapple 2pm, 4.45pm Zukum 5.30pm

CINEMA REPERTORY

LONDON CINE LUMIERE Queenberry Place, SW1 (0171-838 2144, 2146) A Double Take (NC) 6.30pm Parklamb (18) 8.45pm

ICA The Mall, SW1 (0171-930 3671) A Scare at the Sea (NC) 5pm, 7pm 8pm The Master of Life and Death (PG) 6.30pm Black Narcissus (PG) 9.15pm

NFT South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 3232) My Name Is Joe (15) 2.30pm Epidemic (15) 6.20pm The Stationmaster's Wife (Boltwiser) (18) 5.30pm The Rat Catchers and the Spies: Television (NC) 7.30pm Rounders (15) 8.40pm

PHOENIX High Road, N2 (0181-444 6789) Hideous Kinky (15) 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.45pm, 8pm

ODEON STUDIO (08705 050007) BR/F Richmond Hill And Jackie 12.30pm, 3.20pm, 6.10pm, 9pm The Opposite of Sex 2.20pm, 7.10pm [PG] 4.30pm, 9.45pm Practical Magic 2pm, 7pm Stepmom 2.10pm, 6pm, 8.50pm Very Bad Things 4.40pm, 9.30pm

RIVERSIDE STUDIOS Crisp Road, Brentford, Middlesex (0181-558 1176) Belweth (18) 5pm, 9pm Year of the Horse (15) 7pm

BRIGHTON DUKE OF YORKS (01273-602503) Dark Victory (NC) 2.15pm Hideous Kinky (15) 4.30pm, 6.45pm Two Girls and a Guy (18) 6.45pm

BRISTOL WATERSHED (0117-925 3845) The Cow (Kraze) (NC) 6pm Pecker (18) 6.05pm, 8.20pm Hideous Kinky (15) 8.30pm

CAMBRIDGE ARTS (01223-504444) The Opposite of Sex (18) 1pm Hideous Kinky (15) 3pm, 9.15pm The Three Musketeers (NC) 5pm Classe de Négligé (Class Trip) (NC) 7pm

CARDIFF CHAPTER ARTS CENTRE (01222-395666) To Have and Have Not (PG) 7.30pm Pecker (18) 8pm

NORWICH CINEMA CITY (01603-622047) Funny Games (18) 2.30pm, 8.15pm Little Voice (15) 5.45pm

CINEMA COUNTRYWIDE (01222-395666) To Have and Have Not (PG) 7.30pm Pecker (18) 8pm

STAPLES CORNER VIRGIN (0870-9070717) BR: Cricketwood A Bug's Life 1pm, 2.20pm, 3.45pm, 4.45pm, 6.10pm, 8.30pm Enemy of the State 8.10pm How Stella Got Her Groove Back 3pm, 6pm, 8.45pm The Parent Trap 12.15pm Practical Magic 1.30pm, 4.15pm, 6.45pm Shakespeare In Love 12.20pm, 2.50pm, 5.30pm, 8.10pm Stepmom 12.10pm, 3pm, 5.45pm, 8.20pm Very Bad Things 3.45pm

STREATHAM ABC (0870-9020415) BR: Streatham Hill Living Out Loud 2.10pm, 4.20pm, 8.55pm Meet Joe Black 7.15pm Shakespeare In Love 2.20pm, 4.45pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm Practical Magic 1.30pm, 4.15pm, 6.45pm, 8.50pm Stepmom 1.20pm, 3.45pm, 6.30pm, 8.15pm Very Bad Things 3.45pm

STRAFFORD NEW STRATFORD PICTURE HOUSE (0181-555 3366) BR/F Stratford East A Bug's Life 2.40pm, 4.50pm, 7pm, 9.10pm How Stella Got Her Groove Back 3pm, 6pm, 8.45pm The Parent Trap 12.15pm Practical Magic 1.30pm, 4.15pm, 6.45pm, 8.50pm Stepmom 1.20pm, 3.45pm, 6.30pm, 8.15pm Very Bad Things 3.45pm

SURREY QUAYS UCI (0990 888990) BR: Surrey Quays Antz 1.50pm Baby Pig In the City 2pm A Bug's Life 1.5pm, 2.10pm, 3.30pm, 4.45pm, 6pm, 7.30pm, 8.20pm Enemy of the State 1.20pm, 4.45pm, 7.15pm, 9.45pm How Stella Got Her Groove Back 4pm, 6.40pm, 9.40pm Little Voice 4.50pm, 7pm, 9.15pm The Opposite of Sex 4.15pm, 6.50pm, 9.10pm The Parent Trap (PG) Practical Magic (12); The Parent Trap (PG); Practical Magic (12); The Prince of Egypt (U)

ARNOFINI (0171-929 9191) The Mighty (PG) 2pm

CINEMAWORLD THE MOVIES (0171-929 0999) The Adventures of Pinocchio (U); Antz (PG); Baby Pig In the City (U); A Bug's Life (U); Star Trek: Insurrection (PG); Very Bad Things (18)

BLOODY BROTHERS (0171-929 0999) The Adventures of Pinocchio (U); Antz (PG); Baby Pig In the City (U); A Bug's Life (U); Star Trek: Insurrection (PG); Very Bad Things (18)

BUTTERFLY (0171-929 0999) The Adventures of Pinocchio (U); Antz (PG); Baby Pig In the City (U); A Bug's Life (U); Star Trek: Insurrection (PG); Very Bad Things (18)

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TUESDAY RADIO

RADIO 1
(97.6-98.5MHz FM)
6.30 Zoe Ball. 9.00 Simon Mayo.
12.00 Kevin Green. 2.00 Mark
Radcliffe. 4.00 Chris Moyles.
5.45 Newsbeat. 6.00 Dave
Pearce. 8.00 Steve Lamacq - the
Evening Session. 10.00 Digital
Update. 10.30 John Peel. 12.00
The Breezeblock. 2.00 Clive War-
ren. 4.00 - 6.30 Scott Mills.

RADIO 2
(88.9-90.2MHz FM)
6.00 Alex Lester. 7.30 Wake Up
to Wogan. 9.30 Richard Allinson.
12.00 Jimmy Young. 2.00 Ed
Stewart. 5.05 Johnnie Walker.
7.00 Alan Freeman: Their Greatest
Hits. 8.00 Nigel Odger. 9.00 A
Brief History. Sea Pick of the Day.
10.00 Susan Denyer. 11.00
12.00 Katrina Leskanich. 3.00 -
4.00 Mo Dutta.

RADIO 3
(90.2-92.4MHz FM)
6.00 On Air.
9.00 Masterworks.
10.30 Artist of the Week.
11.00 Sound Stories.
12.00 Composer of the Week:
Telemann.
1.00 The Radio 3 Lunchtime Con-
cert.
2.00 The BBC Orchestras.
4.00 Voices.
4.45 Music Machine.
5.00 In Tune.
7.45 Performance on 3. Live from
the Queen Elizabeth Hall, London.
ASMF/Iona Brown (violin); Bartok:
Divertimento; Britten: Variations
on a Theme of Frank Bridge.
8.40 Book of the Month. An ex-
tended review of one of the
month's most interesting new pub-
lications. John Kinsella considers
"The Collected Poems of Peter
Porter". One of the country's most
distinguished literary figures,
Porter celebrates his seventieth
birthday next week. He moved to
Britain from Australia in 1951, and
his output has influenced writers
on both sides of the world. "The
Collected Poems" includes his
Whitbread Award-winning collec-
tion "The Automatic Oracle", as
well as an entirely new collection,
"Both Ends against the Middle".
8.00 Concert, part 2. Tippett: Lit-
tle Music. Strauss: Metamorpho-
sen.

RADIO 4
(92.9-94.5MHz FM)
6.00 Today.
9.00 NEWS; No Triumph, No
Tragedy.
9.30 The New Recruit.
9.45 Serial: The Tulip.
10.00 NEWS; Woman's Hour.
11.00 NEWS; Nature.
11.30 Coming Alive.
12.00 NEWS; You and Yours.
12.57 Weather.
1.00 The World at One.

PICK OF THE DAY

IN THE APTLY titled *A Brief History* (6pm R2), Honor Blackman (right) embroiders some skimpy research about knickers down the ages with humorous social commentary. Contributors and self-appointed experts include Dame Barbara Cartland and Jacqueline Gold (head of *Ann Summers*).

Underwear is just one of the items that acts like honey to a

wasp for the Bristol shoplifters featured in the *Afternoon Play* - On the Rob (2.15pm R4). Rachel Bentham's docu-drama intersects real confessions with that of a fictional widow, played by Anna Massey.

Meanwhile, *File on 4* (8pm R4) asks what happened to New Labour's promise of "a new life for animals". Good question.

DOMINIC CAVENDISH

9.55 Postscript. Five pro-
grammes celebrating 50 years of
photojournalism from the world's
most famous photo agency. 2.15:
"The Man with a Gun". A look at
half a century of war photography
by members of the prestigious
Magnum agency. (R)

10.20 Pollini Plays Chopin Bar-
carolle in F sharp, Op 60; Polon-
ais in F sharp minor, Op 44.

Maurizio Pollini (piano).

10.45 Night Waves. "Even errors
can produce interesting side ef-
fects," claims Umberto Eco in a
new book exploring the lunatic
theories behind some of history's
major movements. Richard Coles
and guests discuss *Ecos* (Serenities). Plus a review of *La
vita è bella*, winner of last year's
Grand Jury Prize at Cannes.

Roberto Benigni's film is a romantic
story set against the Fascism of
30s Italy.

11.30 Jazz Notes.

12.00 Composer of the Week:
Liszt. (R)

1.00 - 6.00 Through the Night.

RADIO 4
(92.9-94.5MHz FM)

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11.30 Coming Alive.

12.00 NEWS; You and Yours.

12.57 Weather.

1.00 The World at One.

1.30 My Mistress Music.
2.00 NEWS; The Archers.

2.15 Afternoon Play: On the Rob.
See *Pick of the Day*.

3.00 NEWS; The Exchange: 0870
01044.

3.30 Going, Going, Gone.

3.45 This Sceptred Isle.

4.00 NEWS; The Learning Curve.

4.30 Shop Talk.

5.00 PM.

5.57 Weather.

6.00 Six O'Clock News.

6.30 The Cheese Shop Presents

- The Butter Factor.

7.00 NEWS; The Archers.

7.15 Front Row. John Wilson with

the arts programme, including

news and comment on this year's

Oscar nominations, announced to-
day.

7.45 Speaking for Themselves.

Dramatised excerpts from the let-
ters of Britain's great wartime

leader and his wife Clementine, taken

from the newly published

collection edited by their daughter,

Mary Soames. With Alex Jennings

as Winston, Sylvie Simon as Clementine, and Helen Bonne as

Sally Wilson.

7.55 Book at Bedtime: Mark

Twain Stories. Comedy star

Kelsey Grammer reads five tales

by the master storyteller, abridged

by Duncan Minshull. 2: The Facts

in the Great Beef Contract". A

piece of bureaucracy plays havoc

with those involved. (R)

11.00 NEWS; Angus Deayton's

History of Alternative Comedy.

The second instalment of Dry-
den's four-part exploration of alter-
native comedy features Ben Elton,

French and Saunders, Tracey Ull-
man and Rik Mayall.

11.20 Talking Pictures.

12.00 News.

12.30 Late Book: Lemon's Tale.

12.45 Shipping Forecast.

1.00 As World Service.

5.30 World News.

5.45 Shipping Forecast.

5.45 Inshore Forecast.

5.45 Prayer for the Day.

5.47 - 6.00 Farming Today.



RADIO 4 LW
(196kHz)
9.45 - 10.00 Daily Service.

12.00 - 12.04 News Headlines;

Shipping Forecast. 5.54 - 5.57

Shipping Forecast. 11.30 - 12.00

Today in Parliament.

RADIO 5 LIVE
(693, 909kHz MW)

6.00 Breakfast.

9.00 Nicky Campbell.

12.00 The Midday News.

1.00 Ruscoe and Co.

4.00 Drive.

7.00 Extra.

7.30 The Tuesday Match.

Russell

Fuller presents coverage of the

night's under-21 international be-

tween England and France.

10.00 Late Night Live.

The day's

big stories with Nick Robinson.

Including 10.30 a full sports round-

up. 11.00 News and finance. And

between 11.30 and 1.00 a sharp

and spirited late-night topical dis-

cussion.

1.00 Up All Night.

5.00 - 6.00 Morning Reports.

CLASSIC FM
(1000-1019MHz FM)

6.00 Nicky Bauer. 8.00 Henry

Kelly. 12.00 Requests. 2.00 Con-

certo. 3.00 Jamie Clegg. 6.30

Newsnight. 7.00 Smooth Classics

at Seven. 9.00 Evening Concert.

11.00 Alan Mann. 2.00 Concerto.

3.00 - 6.00 Mark Griffiths.

VIRGIN RADIO
(125, 197-1280kHz MW 105MHz FM)

6.30 Chris Evans. 9.30 Mark For-

rest. 1.00 Nick Abbot. 4.00 Ham-
ilton. 7.30 Pete and Geoff.

10.00 James Merritt. 1.00 Steve

Power. 4.30 - 6.30 Richard Allen.

WORLD SERVICE RADIO
(196kHz LW)

1.00 The World Today. 1.30 On

Screen. 1.45 Record News. 2.00

The World Today. 2.30 Women

Who Dared to Speak. 3.00 The

World Today. 3.20 Sports

Roundup. 3.30 World Business

Report. 3.45 Insight. 4.00 -

7.00 The World Today (4.00-7.00).

TALK RADIO

6.00 Big Boys Breakfast with David

Banks & Nick Ferrari. 9.00 Scott

Chisholm. 1.00 Anna Raeburn. 3.00

Peter Deely. 5.00 The SportZone.

7.00 Eubank's People. 8.00 James

Whale. 1.00 - 6.00 Ian Collins.

INDEPENDENT PURSUITS

CHESS

JON SPEELMAN

IN THE perfectly justified brouhaha
over the wonderful tournament at
Wijk aan Zee, sight seems to have
been lost - or rather I certainly lost
sight of - the fact that here were
many other graded sections, in-
cluding a fair way weak Grand-

master B tournament.

This 11-round event, which aver-
aged 2,520 (category 11), started
three days after the main tourna-
ment and, with one rest day fewer,
was timed to finish simultaneously
on 31 January.

After a run of five straight wins
in the middle - which would be
pretty special were it not so over-
shadowed by Kasparov's seven - the
pre-tournament favourite, the Ar-
menian Smbat Lputian, ran out the
clear winner on 11. He was fol-
lowed by all Dutch unless otherwise
labelled: Leitao (Brazil) 7.5, Ionov
(Russia) and Van der Wiel 7. Glek
(Russia) and Nijboer 6.5. De Vreugd
5, Brodsky (Ukraine) 4.5, Christian
Bauer (France) - the

LUESDAY TELEVISION

ITV Carlton
Channel 4
Channel 5

THE TUESDAY REVIEW
The Independent 9 February 1990



ROBERT HANKS

TELEVISION REVIEW

IT'S WEIRD TO think that the root of the word "documentary" comes from the Latin "documentum" - "to teach". But what do documentarists actually teach us? Consider last night's *Cutting Edge* (C4). "Mummy's Cut" - the programme presumably designed as a companion piece to the defunct "Tadpoles" - worked on the threads that, roughly, mothers and sons can sometimes have quite intense relationships, and sometimes they get along and sometimes they don't. That highly contrarian view was illustrated through the experiences of three mothers: Deborah, who was driven to despair by 16-year-old Derek's rebellious tendencies (though she still thought he was "a lovely lad, and a handsome one, too"); Rania, who spent her time winding up 10-year-old Sonnen and then teasing him about his temper; and Marjan, whose son Daniel helped to tie her hair and took her along to a gay disco.

I suppose these were meant to represent three different types of mother-son relationships, but they were more factually represented as three different approaches to being a father: Deborah and Derek were "ordinary people", seemingly natural and easy in front of the camera. Marion and Daniel were "odd couples", obviously staging the trip to the disco for the benefit of the film crew. Rania and Sonnen performed a kind of Oedipal version of *What's Afraid of You* (C4). Now, Rania has television as a weapon, it means of inflicting public embarrassment on the privacy of her own home - the programme's most amusing scenes had her attempting to distract Sonnen's back the way he liked it, binding his arm while he squirmed and snapped at the unwanted intimacy. It seemed an effective tactic, but if you really want to use TV as a weapon, then dropping one on somebody's foot won't get you past the next day.

In Robert Hignett's book, *Culture of Complaint* - a witty assault on modern America - he recalls at the horrors of "transvestites Who Live with Their Mothers"; "People Who Eat Their Feet" - apparently this was a real topic tackled by *On the Line*, quotes James Robert Parish, a Californian journalist who has made a

study of the genre and who fears that the "chart-jock" will move from the studio to the home: "The next step will be, 'Can we have our cameras there when you invite your daughter over to discuss why you drew her out?'"

Confessional chat-shows have never had the same impact on British television as they have in America, and watching *The Vanessa Show* (BBC1) or *Trish's Show* (TV) it is clear that it's not the same.

It's not the same because the art of publicaly prying. People are uncomfortable exposing themselves in front of 100 strangers, and chat-show hosts are uncomfortable asking them to do it. But, in the privacy of their own homes, people are happy to rip everything for the camera, even suggesting new poses and exotic pretexts to liven up the picture.

Parish would have to think of the home confessional as the next stage of development after the studio confessional, but surely he's right to think that it is closely related. "Mummy's Boys" would have been a natural topic for *Vanessa*, while yesterday morning's subject on *Leesa's City*, "Mother on Death Row", would also effortlessly fit into the *Cutting Edge* format.

But isn't it interesting that Parish assumes that going into people's homes is even more threatening, more voyeuristic, than chaperoning in the studio? Meanwhile, over here, makers of documentaries like

“Mummy's Boys” have

managed to cling to the belief

that they are doing something

worthwhile and respectable.

When they take the cameras into people's houses, they are showing us extraordinary

questions of individual morality

and whether there has a right

to pass judgement, that sort of

thing. To compare them with a

loud, blonde bimbo in a pink tutu strutting at her studio audience - well, that would be downright insulting.

And to a large extent, critics endorse this delusion: doc-

umentary

and "up-and-down the wall" may be jejune and uncomplained about, but at least they get reviewed, while *Vanessa* and *Cutting Edge* are ignored. The truth is, though, that the only insights to be gained from *real-life* documentaries concern how far people are prepared to go in front of a camera.

TRAVEL SHOW OF THE DAY

11.45 **ITV** *Death Dreams* (Martin Donlevy 1981 US). TV programme about a man and a woman who for years played the roles of the parents of the series' star, *Death in Paradise*. The star, Lee, gave the performances of their careers - and increasingly so in Britain, too. Bill Edward Woodward as Sergeant Horne, who flies out to the remote Scottish island of Summerville to investigate the disappearance of a young girl, Lee, as the star of the island who orchestrates a society of pleasure-seeking adults - well, it doesn't occur to him that works by Vermeer and Goya might be hard to sell. A slight disappointment.

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